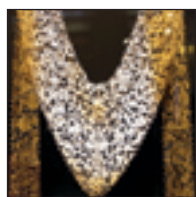


The Venetian Republic was a universe of good taste, variety and elegance.

Page 10



A typical *tulou* accommodates around 20 families, or a clan of hundreds of family members.

Pages 16



When he first saw the gathering of the swans, he found their calls better than any kind of music.

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# BEIJING TODAY

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## Wheels of Fortune

By Su Wei/Xia Xing

Despite the US \$900,000 price tag, a Maybach 62 sedan was just one of the luxury cars that found an owner at the 2004 Beijing International Automobile Exhibition, which ended Wednesday.

International auto manufacturers are clearly counting on a surging demand for luxury cars, given the amount of space devoted to top end models at the show. As well as the expected Ford, General Motors and Volkswagen exhibits, Audi, BMW, Daimler-Chrysler, Maybach, Aston Martin and Lamborghini were represented, not to mention high performance Spyker models priced between \$831,000 and \$1.21 million, a \$144,000 Jaguar and a \$706,000 Rolls-Royce.

While remaining circumspect about exactly how many deals had been done during the week-long show, automaker representatives did not dispute local media reports that the majority of luxury cars on display had found buyers.

China's demand for automobiles in 2020 is expected to reach 20.7 million units, which would likely make it king of the hill, larger even than the massive American market.

Where in the US there is nearly one car for every potentially eligible driver, the figure is barely 9 per 1,000 in China. "Even if 10 percent of the population would want to buy a car, that would be 130 million people, almost as many as you have in Japan," Nissan Executive Vice President Toshiyuki Shiga told the Chinese media last month.

"If the economy grows at a 10 percent annual rate, there will be 130 million potential car buyers in the next few years?" Tony Yip, managing director of automotive software manufacturer QAD in Hong Kong, was quoted as saying by the Chinese media. "If it only grows five percent annually, there will be 65 million. Can you imagine the room for growth?"



Photos by Xia Xing

Early last month, the Ministry of Commerce was reported as saying that international automakers are expanding their business in China, spurred by tariff reductions on vehicle imports to 30 percent next year from the present 34.2 to 37.6 percent, in line with China's WTO commitments.

Franz Jung, senior vice-president of BMW, said in early April that business in China this year will maintain the growth momentum of last year. In 2003, BMW's sales shot up by 176 percent to 18,445 vehicles on the mainland, including 4,359 units of the 325i and 530i models, which was "much better than expected" as Jung said. BMW will export its X3 and 6 series sedans to China this year.

"We'd like to be in the business in a fairly small way, with three dealers (in China)," said Aston Martin's Bill Donnelley, "but we're clearly taking the long view. Right now the top end of the market is only about 300 cars a year, but the long-term potential is tremendous."

'If the economy grows at a 10 percent annual rate, there will be 130 million potential car buyers in the next few years?'

Aston hopes to start out selling about 25 cars annually in China, starting with its DB9 and Vanquish models. It will add the V-8 in 2006. But within five years, the company sees sales jumping tenfold, making China one of its largest world markets.

Swedish-based Volvo is aiming to more than triple its sales in China within the next several years, according to last Wednesday's *China Daily*. The company, like Audi and Aston Martin, a member of Ford Motor Premium Automotive Group, expects to reach annual sales of 10,000 cars on the Chinese mainland in the coming years, up from almost 3,000 units last year, said president and CEO Hans-Olov Olsson.

Volvo aims to lift its global sales to 600,000 cars in the next two years - 300,000 in Europe, 200,000 in North America and 100,000 in Japan and other parts of Asia - up from 415,000 units last year.

According to Mercedes-Benz and Audi reports issued last month, 130,000 Chinese are driving Mercedes-Benz while 63,000 have Audi sedans.

"The growth of China's luxury market was impressive in recent years," said Peter Honegg, president of Mercedes-Benz's China division, "I was surprised to learn that many rich Chinese know Maybach well."

In China's economic hub Shanghai, British Bentley has sold 15 sedans since the beginning of this year and it said the sales are very much likely to reach 20 this year, double the number sold last year.

Although more than 90 percent of passenger cars made and sold in China are foreign brands, such as Volkswagen, GM, Honda, PSA Peugeot Citroen, Toyota and Ford, luxury



The Beijing International Auto Exhibition showcased a range of cars sure to test the pockets of the most extravagant big spenders. Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR (above), Land Rover Defender G4 (top left), Jaguar XKR (center left) and Bentley Arnage 728 (bottom left).

Xinhua Photo

### Car Crazy

Twenty-seven year old real estate developer James Wang placed an order for a new Maybach 62 luxury sedan on the first day of the auto show, according to a report in last Friday's *New York Times*. Sporting a trendy haircut and wearing a simple T-shirt, Wang told the media crush, "I like cars more than clothes."

Already the owner of a Porsche 911 and a Subaru WRX Sti, he said he had "just been waiting for this car to come to China."

He sees himself as one of the young and affluent new class of businessmen in China, and like their counterparts in the west, they are struck with car fever. But he added that there is still something of a social stigma about showing off too much, so like the 911, the Maybach, which will cost him US \$900,000, after import duties and other taxes, will spend most of its time parked. "I don't drive the Porsche that much. I just like to go out to my garage and look at it."

sumers will be very pleased to do business with us and our dealers."

Zhu Zhenhua, a local private entrepreneur in his 30s, said to *Beijing Today*, "It's thrilling to see so many appealing cars here. There is nothing like seeing a new model car or truck for the first time. It's something you remember for a very long time." Holding a big pile of promotional materials, Zhu said he was looking to buy a sedan for his own use, but with a budget of around 250,000 yuan, a Bentley was not under consideration, "For me, buying a car is a practical matter, not a means of showing off wealth." After half a day of search at the show, Zhu settled on a new model produced by Guangzhou Honda.

Wang Li, an assistant sales manager at a local company told *Beijing Today*, "I think like me, many Chinese visitors at the exhibit are mainly interested in the economical family cars, while the luxurious and innovative ones are just an eye opener," she said. "My child also loves cars very much so I took her to the show."

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EDITOR: HOU MINGXIN  
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### Free Personal Classifieds

Beijing Today is launching a free personal classifieds service. For sale and wanted ads, situations wanted and vacant, language exchange and personals, and rentals will be

printed free of charge. Email your personal classifieds (in English and Chinese) to [info@ynet.com](mailto:info@ynet.com). Personal classifieds should conform to relevant laws and regulations.



# Law Firms to Draft Governmental Codes

*By Chu Meng*  
The municipal government of Qingdao, Shandong Province, has signed an agreement with two local law firms entrusting them to draft two bylaws for the city. It is the first time in China for such rights to be granted to a non-governmental organization, and represents a democratic, open and scientific attempt approach to the legislation system, Jiang Dunbin, a Qingdao government official told *Beijing Today* Tuesday.

According to the agreement, Shandong Deheng Law Firm and Shandong Wenkang Law Firm respectively are charged with drafting laws on managing regulations for real estate service and real estate exploitation and development, both of which are expected to be completed by October this year.

“Two drafts are all related to real estate development in the city, which is a relatively new legislation area and requires a lot of professional knowledge and expertise. Therefore, by entrusting non-government law firms, we are attempting to overcome the lack of sufficient transparency and the lack of participating of experts,” said Jiang.

Since 1986, almost 100 local laws and regulations in Qingdao have been set by related functional organs of the local government. However, due to certain shortcomings, some government departments have strengthened their own interests by way of granting certificates, charging fees and imposing fines, while weakening the interests of the supposed beneficiaries of the laws and regulations.

“We hoped to promote the quality of governmental legislation by taking a multi-channel and multilateral participations lawmaking method. Thus the laws and regulations system can be much more democratic and professional, and bring more benefit to the public,” Jiang concluded.

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## Six-way Talks Set for Next Week

The third round of six-party talks on the Korean nuclear issue will be held between June 23 and 26 in Beijing, according to Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue.

The second working group meeting of the six-party talks will start on June 21 to make preparations for the new round of talks, Zhang said at a regular press conference Tuesday.

The previous two rounds of six-party talks, which involved China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States, the Republic of Korea, Russia and Japan, were held in the Chinese capital in August last year and February this year.

Zhang said it is China's

hope that the parties concerned would show their utmost sincerity and flexibility for cooperation in the spirit of mutual respect and equal consultation for progress in the third-round talks.

After the previous two rounds of six-party talks and one working group meeting, the involved parties have reached a consensus on such issues as peaceful solution of the nuclear issue through dialogue, a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula as the ultimate goal, and nuclear freezing as the first step to complete nuclear abandonment, while addressing the security concerns of the DPRK.

(Xinhua)

# China to Recruit Female Astronauts

*By Chu Meng*  
Recruitment criteria has been finalized for the selection and training of female astronauts, a report in the latest issue of *Scientific Exploration* magazine states.

Deputy commander of China's manned space flight project Hu Shixiang says in the report that China will have its first female astronaut by 2010. Hu reveals that the selection will be made from among women aged between 25 and 45 in late 2005 or 2006. Once selected, they will receive three to five years' training before being sent into space. The training courses will include both general subjects for astronauts and specialized subjects specifically designed according to female physiological characteristics.

Gu Xiulian, president of the All-China Women's Federation and vice chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, told a gathering in March, “The first Chinese female astronaut will be sent into space in a Shenzhou spaceship. It is planned that she will work as a payload expert who is mainly in charge of scientific research. The spaceship will be driven by a male astronaut”

“There is no technical problem for China to send female astronauts into orbit. Although men and women are quite different physically, we can accommodate women by changing parts of the facilities in the space vehicle, and there are no technical problems that cannot be overcome,” Gu added.



Yuhuang Temple in Beijing's Fangshan District is undergoing repairs. The capital has launched large-scale maintenance projects this month to protect its famous historic buildings. Since 2000, a total of 440 million yuan has been allocated for such projects.

Xinhua Photo

## Shenzhen Condenses Government Agencies

*By Chu Meng*  
The city of Shenzhen unveiled a political restructuring reform Sunday, focusing on reorganizing government agencies and readjustment of the city's government functions. The new administration system is aimed at promoting government transparency, improving bureaucracy and building the rule of law in the administration.

While the total number of government employees remains unchanged, the number of departments will be reduced from 45 to 35. Of these, 21 are composite agencies, 12 are directly affiliated agencies and one is a specially established agency. After the restructuring, the government will have four major functions, namely macroeconomic regulation, market supervision, social management and public service.

The reform will mainly concentrate on 18 government agencies, which are required to readjust their functions and establish staffing levels by the end of this month. “Unlike previous reforms, this is not simply a matter of scrapping or merging some government departments and reshuffling public services. The core of the reform is

to make a big leap forward in changing the government's functions to public service and create a new mechanism for city government operations,” an official from the Shenzhen Bureau of Personnel's public relations office, who declined to give his name, told *Beijing Today*.

A recently passed plan on deepening reform in Shenzhen proposes that a key plank of the reform is to open up decision-making to wider input from the public.

A joint-meeting system made up by various government agencies will be improved to lift government efficiency in policy making and implementation. A number of social supervisory committees including people from all walks of life will be set up to effectively scrutinize the city government.

“To meet the demands of a market economy for a more accountable, efficient and clean government, the government's functions of public services will be strengthened. It is not simply a reduction the number of government agencies. Instead, it would be a reform of functional transformation,” the official added.

## Macro-Control Effective Says Statistic Bureau

*By Yi Yi*  
The National Bureau of Statistics released a report Monday showing that fixed assets investment reached 439 billion yuan in May. The 18.3 percent monthly increase was down to 16.4 percent on that of April.

From January to May, fixed asset investment on 500,000-yuan or more projects reached 1543.7 billion yuan, surging 34.8 percent compared with the same period last year. The bureau noted that the trend proves that the government's macro-control measures has been effective.

Meanwhile, a report issued by the People's Bank of China Monday showed the combined monthly index of enterprise commodity in May dropped by 0.3 percent, the first fall since last July, yet still increased 9.4 percent compared with the same period last year.

The report also illustrated a rise

of 0.1 percent in the price of consumable compared with April, and a rise of 9.5 percent compared with the same period last year.

Prices for coal, oil and electricity rose an average of 1.4 percent on April, with an increase of 10.2 percent on the same period last year.

The bureau said that the effectiveness of the macro-control measures proved a progress in the following aspects: the further slowing of the increase in fixed assets investment and industrial production, market sales remaining steady and active, import and export trade deficit turned into surplus, prices increases weakened, and bank credit is under control. The strategy for the second half of year is to reinforce monitoring, implement the macro-control measures from the central government, and ensure a rapid increase of the national economy.

## Pay to be Standardized for SOE Executives

*By Chu Meng*  
The State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of Beijing is to standardize the pay for senior executives of state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Commission director Xiong Daxin said in an announcement released last Friday the move is aimed at bringing the initiative of senior leaders into full play and to closely bind their salaries with the annual profits of the enterprises.

According to the announcement, the incomes of board chairmen, general managers and CEOs will be divided into two parts, with the basic wage

accounting for about 40 percent of the whole and the remainder in the form of a bonus tied to the profit made of the enterprise. As for the more concrete and efficient evaluation of the performances of such senior executives, key financial indicators such as gross profit and return-on-the-net-asset ratio will be used.

The commission had chosen 20 major state-owned enterprises out of its total 92 subordinates, as experimental points of the new scheme. If effectiveness can be achieved within the next two to three years, the new payment standard of senior leaders will be applied to the other SOEs.

## High-level Israeli Business Delegation to Visit China

*By Hou Mingxin*  
Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert will lead a delegation of over 120 top Israeli businessmen to visit China from June 21 to 29, sources from the Israeli embassy in Beijing said Wednesday.

Olmert, who was invited to China by Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai, will hold talks with Chinese leaders on Israel-China bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Middle East.

He will lead the delegation to participate in the Israel-China Business Conference, preside over the meeting of the Israel-

China Joint Economic Committee, attend a signing ceremony of cooperation between Israeli and Chinese enterprises and participate in a special event to promote Israel-China cooperation in the projects of the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

Israel-China economic and trade cooperation has developed rapidly in recent years, with bilateral trade volume last year increasing by 40 percent. The visit will further broaden cooperation, mainly in the fields of telecommunications, high-tech, security, agro-technologies, infrastructure and environmental technology.

## Urban Population Hits 338 Million

There were a total of 338 million urban residents in China at the end of 2003, according to an annual report by the Ministry of Construction.

At the same time, China's urban area reached 399,000 square kilometers, with a population density of 847 persons per square kilometer.

The report said city facilities developed rapidly in 2003 and the urban environment improved.

“City functions were strengthened, their capacities

enhanced and urban residents' living conditions improved,” the report stated.

China's fixed assets investment in cities by both central and local governments reached 446.2 billion yuan (about 54 billion US dollars), up 42.9 percent over the previous year.

Fixed assets investment for urban development accounted for 8.1 percent of the country's total fixed assets investment, up 0.9 percentage points over 2002.

(Xinhua)

## China, Russia to Establish Free Trade Zone

*By Yi Yi*  
China and Russia have agreed to establish a free trade zone covering an area of 10 square kilometers in Suifenhe, Heilongjiang Province and the far-east area of Russia.

According to a report in China Business Weekly Sunday, the primary

phase of the construction of the free trade zone on the Chinese side has been assigned to Hong Kong-invested real estate developer Shi Mo Group, who won the bid at 125 million yuan.

The construction of the project is expected to be completed in ten years.

## Commercial Use of Agricultural Land Halted

*By Chu Meng*  
China has temporarily put an end to the use of farmland for non-agriculture purposes, according to a circular jointly issued last Friday by the Ministry of Land and Resources and the National Development and Reform Commission.

The circular states that applications for land use can still go through approval procedures if farmland is not involved. Construction projects that are urgently needed, such as energy, transport

and urban infrastructure projects involving the use of farmland, must receive approval from the ministry and the commission first.

The circular was issued in support of a national campaign targeting problems concerning the use of land and official approval of land use, protection of basic farmland resources, the acquisition of farmland and efforts by local governments to make up for the loss of farmland used for non-agricultural projects through land development projects.

The use of farmland for industrial development in China has increased dramatically in recent years and millions of farmers have been disadvantaged by illegal land development projects.



Photo by Photocome



# Chinese Firms Ink Deals with Boeing, Airbus

By Sun Yongjian

China's aircraft manufacturing industry got a big boost last week when some of the country's top firms signed tentative cooperation deals with global powerhouses Boeing and Airbus.

US-based Boeing signed a memorandum of understanding with Chinese aviation manufacturers China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC I) and China Aviation Industry Corporation II (AVIC II) last Thursday for the production of parts and assemblies for Boeing aircraft, such as rudders for the Boeing 7E7 Dreamliner.

Those rudders will be made by

Chengdu Aircraft Industrial Co. (CAC), an AVIC I affiliate.

Boeing is also developing opportunities for Hafei Aviation Industry, an AVIC II subsidiary, to produce metallic and composite parts and assemblies for various Boeing jetliners, including the 7E7.

The total value of the contracts could reach several hundred million dollars.

"China has an important role in the 7E7 program," said Jim Morris, senior vice president of Supplier Management for Boeing Commercial Airplanes, at the Monday press conference for the

memo signing. "Chengdu Aircraft and Hafei represent the talents, technological capabilities and resources of the Chinese aviation industry that Boeing needs to provide the best value to our airline customers."

Airbus Corporate Jet (ACJ), a wing of Boeing's rival, European aircraft consortium Airbus, signed an agreement of cooperation with China Aviation Supplies Import and Export Group (CASIE) on June 11. That deal calls for the Chinese company to purchase 20 Airbus A330-300 aircraft and to be in charge of production of some parts for upcoming Airbus 380 superjumbo aircraft.



AVIC I signed a deal with Boeing to manufacture rudders for new 7E7 Dreamliner aircraft.

Xinhua Photo

## Making 'Waves

Visitors check out the latest microwave ovens from China's Galanz group at the Euro Disney Park in Paris on June 15.

Galanz, the world's largest microwave producer, has embarked on a global promotional campaign for its new products.

The Euro Disney exhibition attracted customers, including brokers and representatives of merchandising groups, from more than 50 countries and regions of the world.

Xinhua Photo



## China, US cooperate in Forex Market

China Foreign Exchange Trade System (CFETS) has signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation with the US' Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME). Lin Yuli, president of CFETS, said the two sides signed the memorandum on June 8 in Chicago.

According to the memorandum, CFETS will provide its US counterpart with information on foreign exchange and the money market in China, including policies, regulations and detailed developments in the market.

"The information could help CME better understand the development of the money market in China," said Lin.

Meanwhile, CME would help the Chinese side to become familiar with the operation, products and rules of international foreign exchange derivative markets. It would also assist with the design and marketing of Chinese derivative products and help train professional traders.

Terry Duffy, chairman of CME, said Asia was a new market that the exchange was preparing to tap.

Under the supervision of the People's Bank of China, CFETS is one of the major money markets in China engaged in inter-bank lending of foreign exchange and renminbi. In 2003, CFETS registered a foreign exchange transaction volume equaling \$151.1 billion, up 55 percent from the year before, and renminbi businesses of 17.2 trillion yuan, up 45 percent.

The CME is the biggest futures exchange in the US and the largest clearing house in the world for the trading of futures and options on futures contracts.

(Xinhua)

## Foreign Capital Flowing into Local Medical Care Market

By Chu Meng

A new private hospital built with German investment, the Beijing Diakonie International Orthopedic Hospital, opened Sunday in the Beitapingzhuang area of Chaoyang District. The new hospital has been hailed as a sign that the municipal government has succeeded in efforts to reform the city's health care system and attract more private and foreign capital to the field.

"Policies had been carried out here in Beijing to help develop private medical institutes, so that Beijing residents have access to a variety of levels of

medical services offered by both public and private hospitals," Xiao Feng, chief director of Diakonie's marketing management department, told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

Those new policies encourage enterprises and individuals to open medical institutes as well as to form joint ventures with local hospitals at the district and city levels to ensure Beijing has adequate supplies of trained medical personnel and technical resources.

According to Chinese medical regulations, foreign capital can now ac-

count for up to 70 percent of the investment in a joint venture hospital, a steep rise from the limit of 30 percent of a decade ago.

To date, more than 20 hospitals financed in part by foreign or private investment have been established in the capital.

"As China's economy improves, people are demanding better medical services. Under present conditions, existing medical facilities could never fully satisfy that demand. That is where the joint venture hospitals come in," Xiao said.

## End in Sight to Shenzhen Bank Card Dispute

By Sun Yongjian

A two-week battle over bank cards waged between banks and stores in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, took a positive turn last weekend when detailed regulations regarding fees for using cards from 17 domestic banks in the city were reported to government authorities, Saturday's *Shenzhen Economic Daily* said.

As *Beijing Today* reported on June 11, chain stores in Shenzhen city started to refuse bank cards on June 2 in response to a breakdown in negotiations on transaction fees with a Shanghai-based national payment network sponsored by most of China's banks. The main point of debate was the refusal of that network, China UnionPay, to cut card use fees, *Xinhua* reported.

Following the reporting of the regulations, some trans-

action fees will be lowered, according to the *Shenzhen Economic Daily*, because the rules will divide cards usable by stores according to type, and charges will range in keeping with industry.

The new regulations will cover all stores in Shenzhen in which point of sale terminals, or card readers, have or will be installed.

Other cities in China have also been affected by the dispute. Tuesday's *China Youth Daily* reported that two Shanghai-based chain stores announced on Tuesday that they were rejecting bank cards.

Yongle Household Electrical Appliance said it would not accept payment by cards issued by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) from Mondays to Fridays, while the Jaja Decoration Company declared it would take no cards on Tuesdays.

Just the next day, Yongle abandoned its boycott and restored card payments in seven chain stores, the Shanghai-based *News Evening* reported Wednesday.

## Baidu Gets Funds from Google

By Sun Yongjian

Baidu, one of the world's top Chinese search engines, announced on Tuesday in Beijing that it had received investment from eight companies, including powerful international engine Google.

Baidu Online Network Technology holds a dominant 48.2 percent share of China's booming Internet market. Google, which already controls 30 percent of its native US market, had been losing ground in this country to Baidu, which has succeeded in releasing a series of services targeted directly at the needs of domestic web users.

Some have speculated that Google's motive for investing in Baidu is to avoid further competition and focus on shoring up its position in China.

The timing also coincides with Google's expected listing on Nasdaq later this year, which analysts have said could give the company a market value in the tens of billions of dollars. Adding a recognized company like Baidu to its fold should only strengthen the US company's portfolio.

Baidu CEO Li Yanhong told *Beijing Today* that his company was the largest Chinese search engine and the market leader in that sector. He said that investment from international firms should strengthen its position and further its lead over competing Chinese engines.

## Ping An Insurance Launches HK Listing

By Yi Yi

China's second largest life insurance provider and third largest property and casualty insurer, Ping An Insurance Group, started selling shares to individual investors in Hong Kong on Monday, prior to its listing on the Hong Kong stock market next Thursday, the company announced Sunday.

Ping An, the first Chinese private-owned insurer to list overseas, issued a global offering of 1.39 billion shares, among which 95 percent were H-shares and American depository shares targeting institutional investors, and the remaining five percent H shares for selling to retail investors in Hong Kong.

The company expects to solicit as much as HK\$12.8 billion, which would make it the largest haul from an IPO in Hong Kong this year.

Initial sales of Ping An stock ran through noon on Thursday, with prices ranging from HK\$9.59 to HK\$11.88 per share. The company said that if market response was positive, it would adjust the proportion of shares allocated for sale in Hong Kong and the global market.

The company will list on the Hong Kong stock exchange's main board on June 24 under stock code 2318.

## American Express Travel Goes West

By Yi Yi

Leading international travel agency American Express Travel has entered China's vast western market through collaboration with the Sichuan Province branch of China International Travel Service (CITS), China's top travel agent.

The two sides have established a joint venture, Sichuan CITS Express Service Center, that will serve as a broader platform for Sichuan to enter the global tourism fold, Xinhua reported Sunday.

The cooperation will give Sichuan CITS access to American Express Travel's tourist service network of over 1,700 partners in more than 130 countries. Sichuan CITS will also receive favorable prices in deals signed by its new US-based partner with global supplies and enjoy generous commission returns.

Sichuan CITS Express Service Center has begun operations and American Express Travel has dispatched experienced experts from the US to oversee the training of local employees.

The American tourism giant has signed agreements for establishing service centers with 15 CITS subordinates including those in Sichuan, Qingdao and Shenzhen.

## Capgemini Drops Ernst & Young from Name

By Sun Yongjian

Powerful international consulting firm Capgemini announced on Tuesday that it no longer had control of the name "Ernst & Young" and was removing that name from all its logos and trademarks. The firm has reverted to its original name of Capgemini, known in China as "Kai Jie".

"This renaming is all in part of Capgemini's current global re-branding campaign," Soh Kay Meng, CEO of Capgemini China, told *Beijing Today*.

Soh explained that the renaming was a result of legal technicalities from the 2000 merger of Cap Gemini with Ernst & Young Consulting. Prior to that deal, Capgemini was Europe's largest IT consulting firm and Ernst & Young Consulting one of the world's elite "Big Five" management consulting firms. In May 2000, the merger made Capgemini Ernst & Young the largest management and IT consulting firm in Europe.

## PICC Jacks Up Vehicle Insurance, Again

By Sun Yongjian

The People's Insurance Company of China (PICC) Beijing Branch on June 10 raised the prices of some vehicle insurance policies for the third time since last year, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported last Friday.

The previous increases boosted the prices of policies for high risk vehicles and responsibility insurance of third parties.

In this latest shift, prices of policies covering vehicle damage will be raised 20 percent to 30 percent, *Beijing Youth Daily* said. The price adjustment covers private vehicles, vehicles for non-commercial organizations and vehicles for the transportation of goods.

An official from PICC's vehicle insurance department told *Beijing Youth Daily* that the price hikes were intended to cover losses caused by dropping policy sales.



# New Blow for Mitsubishi

Tokyo, June 15 (AFP) - Scandal-hit Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corp. will recall 450,000 more vehicles in Japan after an internal probe found further defects, some of which caused injuries or fires, the company said.

"We estimate the overall figure of affected vehicles - defined as those vehicles still in the market - to be approximately 450,000 units," senior executive officer Hideyuki Shiozawa told a news conference.

The announcement is the latest bombshell affecting the truckmaker, an affiliate of ailing Mitsubishi Motors Corp., which is 37 percent owned by US-German auto giant DaimlerChrysler.

The judgment of its parent firm in not issuing recalls back in 2000 was "selective", "incomplete", and "in

some cases, it even obviously ignored available information on quality and safety," Fuso chief executive Wilfried Porth said.

It was unclear in the new recall how many vehicles sold overseas would be affected, or how much it would hurt the bottom line, Porth said, but he added "the overall business impact will be, without doubt, significant."

Last week, Japanese police arrested a former president of Mitsubishi Motors and five other executives for covering up defects.

The arrests marked a further blow to parent Mitsubishi Motors, the nation's fourth largest carmaker, whose sales and stock price have plummeted due to the repeated, belated recalls and cover-up scandals.

The company said in May it did

not expect to return to profitability until 2007.

## Analyst's Take:

*The difficulties facing Mitsubishi Motors result from the failure of its management; it needs a completely new leadership and reforms, most important of which is to change the enterprise culture.*

*Problems of product quality have greatly impaired the image of the Mitsubishi brand. However, the problems are not only technical ones. They have reflected a disregard for consumers and lack of effective internal communicating mechanisms.*

*In addition, Mitsubishi Motors failed to put forward new products and lacked a coherent strategy. Currently, it should not only try to pull*

*through difficulties, but also shoulder social responsibilities.*

*The top priority for Mitsubishi's new leaders is to rebuild employees' hope and confidence in the future of Mitsubishi Motors. To accomplish this task, the new leaders must make it public that they will go all out to reform the company's enterprise culture.*

*The new leaders should first decide what kind of culture they want, and then implement it step by step with an eye to principles of openness and honesty. Besides, when reshaping enterprise culture, a global perspective is indispensable.*

**— Wolfgang Lux, General Manager of the Asia-Pacific Region, American Management Association, interviewed in China Business Post**

## Fed Okays Mega Bank Merger

Washington, June 14 (AP) - The Federal Reserve cleared the way Monday for Wall Street powerhouse J.P. Morgan Chase to absorb Chicago-based Bank One, forming the nation's second-largest bank, with more than \$1 trillion in assets.

The Fed's board of governors, including Chairman Alan Greenspan, voted 6-0 to approve the mega-merger, finding that the investment firm's acquisition of the bank would not threaten competition or unduly concentrate banking resources.

The \$58 billion deal will erase about 10,000 jobs by 2006 and the Bank One name sooner, in one of a series of consolidations in the financial services industry.

The new institution, which will have about 2,300 branches, will have assets estimated at \$1.12 trillion, trailing only titan Citigroup. It will be headquartered in New York but Chicago will be the base for some retail operations.

Some experts believe the combination will shift the US banking industry landscape, setting off a cascade of deals among mid-size institutions while creating opportunities for community banks to steal customers from the larger companies.

J.P. Morgan Chase already is the No. 2 US bank, with assets of some \$801 billion and operations in more than 50 countries. Bank One, the sixth-biggest bank, has branches in 13 Midwest and Southwest states and in Florida. It has \$320 billion in assets and more than 51 million credit cards issued.

William Harrison, J.P. Morgan's chairman and chief executive officer, will keep those titles, while Bank One Chief Executive Jamie Dimon will become chief operating officer, and rise to CEO in 2006.

## Analyst's Take:

*Recently, there has been a surge in restructuring in the banking sector in the US. This March, the Fed approved the merger of Bank of America with Fleet Boston Financial Corporation, leading to the third biggest bank in the US with \$966 billion in assets.*

*Some analysts believe the merger of J.P. Morgan with Bank One will reorganize the structure of the US banking sector. The \$1.12 trillion newborn institution is trailing only the giant Citigroup, and further consolidation will probably follow.*

*In the meantime, business competition between large banks will become fiercer. Compared with enterprise credit, consumer credit is a more alluring cake with its higher returns and lower risks. Based on the extension of service networks after a merger, the newborn institution will emphasize the development of consumer credit, making competition in this field fiercer.*

*However, some people are concerned that such mergers will cause banks to neglect the benefits of some communities. One director from a community organization said middle income consumers and small companies would suffer from the merger.*

*How long before the US has only one bank?*

**— Qian Shi, reporter, Securities Times, Shenzhen**



*Children are waiting for medical treatment at a hospital in Congo.*

*June 16 marks the Day of Africa Children, a special day claimed by the Organization of African Unity in 1990 in memory of the black students killed by the*

*former South African regime.*

*Wars, diseases and economic stagnation have put the children on the continent in despair. Their death rate is as high as 15 percent, according to World Health Organization statistics.*

Xinhua Photo

## More and More Millionaires

New York, June 16 (AFP) - Some 500,000 people joined the ranks of the world's millionaires in 2003 thanks to a roaring stock market and strong economic conditions, a survey showed.

The survey showed the number of high net worth individuals (HNWIs) rose by 7.5 percent to 7.7 million, while their assets grew by 7.7 percent to US\$28.8 trillion.

The report by Capgemini and Merrill Lynch showed a return to levels of wealth prior to recessions in North America and elsewhere as a result of improving conditions in 2003.

The rebound came after a mixed year for wealthy investors in 2002, during which the number of US millionaires and their net worth declined

modestly while the group's overall assets rose just 3.6 percent.

"As in previous years, high net worth individuals were quick to respond to global trends affecting their ability to preserve and grow wealth," said James Gorman, president of Merrill Lynch's Global Private Client group.

"They benefited from a strong stock market rally and solid, global economic growth. In particular, wealthy investors in the US, China and India were able to capitalize on these trends despite a great deal of geopolitical uncertainty."

North America and Asia led the rise in wealth creation, with more modest growth in Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

The number of millionaires in the

United States stood at 2.27 million at the end of 2003, up 13.5 percent or a net 272,000 compared with the previous year. The assets of these people were up 13.6 percent.

There was also strong growth amid a smaller number of millionaires in China, which saw a 12 percent increase in the number of millionaires, and India, which saw a 22 percent increase, the report said.

The report said Europe continued to show lower growth in millionaires and their assets than North America.

Globally, a very small but fast-growing group of 70,000 belonged to the "ultra-rich" category with more than 30 million dollars in financial assets, up from 58,000 a year ago.

## Russia's Super-Rich Still Wield Influence

Moscow, June 13 (AP) - Four years after President Vladimir Putin declared war on the tycoons who controlled huge portions of Russia's economy, many of these extremely wealthy men still enjoy great power in outlying parts of the country.

Controlling sectors such as oil, metals and the national television networks, the oligarchs became a key political force, allegedly trading favors with former President Boris Yeltsin's government. They drove around Moscow in armored corteges, publicly boasted about their Kremlin links and flaunted their wealth, snapping up English manors and building castle-like summer homes on the outskirts of the Russian capital.

On the eve of his 2000 election, Putin vowed to destroy the oligarchs as a political class. Under his watch, the tally reads: Khodorkovsky, the former head of the Yukos oil company, and key Yukos shareholder Platon Lebedev jailed awaiting trial on charges of fraud and tax evasion; media magnate Vladimir Gusinsky and Boris Berezovsky, whose fortune included media and automobile hold-



*Platon Lebedev (R), YUKOS major shareholder speaks to Mikhail Khodorkovsky as sitting behind bars in Meshchansky court, in Moscow, June 16, 2004.*

Xinhua / AFP Photo

ings, living abroad as fugitives; and three other oil millionaires connected to Khodorkovsky living out of the country to evade arrest.

But, according to a recent World Bank report, 23 large owners or their financial groups continue to dominate key sectors of the Russian economy.

To get things done, many are increasingly turning to regional governments for the tax breaks, investment credits and subsidies that give

their businesses the edge - and draw less attention, analysts say.

## Analyst's Take:

*In Russia, 23 private financial and industrial groups enjoy annual sales of over \$400 million and more than 190,000 employees each group.*

*The oligarchs not only control strategic economic sectors such as oil, but also possess 17 percent of bank assets.*

*This concentrated wealth has affected various aspects of Russia's economy.*

*Due to the ineffective protection of shareholders' benefits, concentrated wealth is treated as the sole method to solve internal disputes of enterprises.*

*Meanwhile, Russia's economy is in a transitional period and market mechanisms have not been perfected yet.*

*To assist the healthy development of the national economy, Russia must attach greater importance to middle and small-sized enterprises, as well as introduce an equal and fair competitive environment in the market.*

**— Lu Yansong, reporter, Xinhua News Agency, Moscow**

## South Korea Considers New Capital

Seoul, June 15 (Xinhua) - South Korea on Tuesday picked four areas in the central part of the country as the candidate sites for its new administrative capital to replace Seoul.

The four locations are the Eumseong-Jincheon area in North Chungcheong Province, and Cheonan, the Yeongi-Gongju region and the Gongju-Nonsan area.

The new capital, whose construction is scheduled to start in 2007 for completion in 2030, would have a population of around 500,000 and house 85 key administrative, legislative and judiciary agencies.

The selection comes amid a sizzling debate over the feasibility of capital relocation, one of President Roh Moo-hyun's pledges during the 2002 presidential campaign.



A cafeteria in London

Xinhua / AFP Photo

## Tokyo, London Most Expensive Cities

London, June 13 (AP) - The weak American dollar and strong European and Asian currencies helped make Tokyo and London the most expensive cities in the world, according to a survey released Monday.

American cities were absent from the top 10, with the most expensive US city, New York, dropping two spots from last year to 12 in the survey of 144 urban areas conducted by Mercer Human Resource Consulting.

Moscow ranked third, with Osaka, Japan, and Hong Kong rounding out the top five.

The survey, drawn up twice a year, ranks cost of living for foreign workers, not local residents, and is used primarily by multinational companies to determine pay for expatriate employees.

The rest of the top 20 remained fairly constant, although Paris, Vienna, Austria and Istanbul made their first appearances so high in the rankings.

The survey took into consideration 250 criteria, including the cost of utilities, food and entertainment.

## Top Advertiser to Spend Less on TV

New York, June 17 (Reuters) - McDonald's tuneful advertising jingle "I'm Lovin' It" may have proven unexpectedly catchy with consumers, but its marketing plans won't be music to the ears of US television networks.

The No. 1 hamburger chain has cut its spending on prime-time commercials from two-thirds of its advertising budget to one-third over the past four years and plans to move further away from a one-stop strategy to draw consumers.

The spending will go to "other media" instead, Larry Light, the company's global chief marketing officer, told reporters at an advertising conference on Wednesday. "It's a little here, a little there. Cable has been a big beneficiary."

## UN Says Speed Up Aid

Sao Paulo, June 15 (AFP) - The UN has called for faster fixes for global poverty, hunger, infant mortality and universal education.

Unless aid flows to poor countries picks up, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the UN Millennium Development Goals are unlikely to be met by their 2015 deadline.

At a roundtable here, attended by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, delegates mooted a special tax on financial transactions or arms sales, the proceeds of which could be used to help fight hunger.

An initiative is expected to be launched here that would seek to reduce trade barriers among developing nations, while still maintaining trade protections against industrialized nations.

Representatives from 192 countries, including the United States and the European Union, are attending the 11th UN Conference on Trade and Development.



Xinhua Photo



# College Exam Cheats Nabbed in Henan

By Dong Nan

Several people involved in cheating on the crucial national college entrance exam on June 7 and 8 have been identified and apprehended in Zhenping town, Nanyang city, Henan Province.

The six suspects, including a few senior middle school grade two students, were arrested on June 9 and charged with "illegally obtaining state secrets."

Zhenping police have stated that a few students were caught using their mobile phones to query and distribute answers to the English and mathematics sections of the national exams on June 7 and 8. The crimes involved pupils from the Zhenping No.1 Senior Middle

School, Zhenping No.1 Junior Middle School and Xufeng Middle School.

Grade two student Shao Jiang coordinated the efforts to cheat on the test, normally taken by grade three students, from the Zhenping No.1 Senior Middle School.

Shao took part in the test, surreptitiously writing down the questions to the math and English sections on a piece of paper. Locked inside the examination room with the other test takers, he managed to sneak the questions out through a hole in the wall to an awaiting accomplice.

Afterwards, Shao gave the paper to 18-year-old Li Xiao, a friend back from studying in Malaysia on summer holiday, who tried to answer the secret

test questions along with nearly 20 other grade students that met at Shao's home.

At the same time, Shao sent the questions via mobile phone to another friend, Jia Shuchuan, a law student at a university in Lanzhou, Gansu Province. Jia sent back his answers through short messages.

Li and Shao then collected all the answers and distributed them to complicit students through text messages using Li's computer.

Jia was apprehended in Lanzhou on June 15, arrested and sent back to Zhenping yesterday.

Shao told police that they sold the answers for 1,000 yuan per subject to the cheating students, adding that he had received 12,000 yuan, all of which

he turned over to Jia for his services. The law student originally demanded 20,000 yuan, forcing Shao to borrow the rest from his mother, Wen Huafang.

Wen left Zhenping the night Shao was arrested. Police suspect she was involved in the case and have started a manhunt.

Later, some of the students involved told the police that the expensive answers they purchased had ended up being incorrect.

The case is still under investigation.

"We have told students never to cheat again, but with the rapid development of technology, there may be nothing we can do to stop them," said Yang Zhixian, vice principal of the Zhenping No.1 Senior Middle School.



Australian Ambassador Thomas picks cucumbers grown at the Zhiguang school with principal Wang Xiumin. Photo by Zhao Hongyi

## Ambassador Visits Country School

By Zhao Hongyi

After a few unexpected detours, Dr. Alan Thomas, the Australian ambassador in Beijing, and several of his colleagues arrived at the Zhiguang Special Education School in a mountainous northern area of Beijing last Friday to work with some special needs students.

The school, situated in the small village of Gecun in Changping District, is a non-government and non-profit educational organization dedicated to training developmentally challenged young people to learn basic living and studying skills.

The children met the ambassador with obvious excitement, lining up in the bright

afternoon sun, demonstrated elements of their daily lives and guided the guests through nearby farmland. Ambassador Thomas then cut the ribbon for the official opening of the remote school's new greenhouse.

There are over 20 million developmentally challenged people in China, a quarter of whom are children. Across the country, 210 special training schools, mostly financed and operated by the government, teach people to live, study and work independently.

Established in 1998, Zhiguang was the first private school in Beijing to offer such services, and more than 260 teenagers have graduated from the school.

## Adopted Girl Returns to Homeland

By Zhang Nan

After a one week tour of her native China, seven-year-old Chang Yulu and her American mother, Alisa Ludtke, returned home to the US this weekend.

The two arrived in Beijing on June 6 on a mission to help Chang learn more about the country in which she was born. It was the first time for her to come back to this country since her adoption.

The little girl was abandoned by her parents as a baby and raised at the Changzhou Orphanage. 1997, at the age of nine months, she was adopted by Ludtke and left to live in her new home in the US state of Massachusetts.

Ludtke, who works at a foundation affiliated with Harvard University, said that it was love at first sight when she met her adopted daughter at the orphanage. "I will be with her all my life," she was quoted as saying in a *Beijing News* report on Wednesday.

Later, Ludtke worried that Chang, now a second grader in



Chang Yulu and her mother Alisa Ludtke. Photo by Wang Shen

elementary school, might forget about her homeland, and arranged to bring her to China when she was old enough.

During the visit in Beijing, the mother and daughter went to many famous sites like the Great Wall, Forbidden City and Summer Palace, Chang recording her experiences and impressions in a diary. They then headed to Shanghai, Hangzhou and Changzhou, Chang's hometown.



All Chinese: Li Guangming, his cars and his models. Photo by Zhang Ke

## Maverick Inventor Striving to Create Native Car Brand

By Zhang Jianzhong

Beijing's blistering heat did not prevent huge crowds from visiting Auto China 2004, the nation's largest auto show held in Beijing from June 10 to 16.

This year's running of the biennial event drew 1,400 domestic and overseas automobile and auto parts companies to participate, including a fledgling Chinese carmaker established by one man.

Three attractive cars under the brand Lishi Guangming Automobile Design Co., which claimed to be "a Chinese original," drew showgoers to a display in the No. 10 exhibition hall of the International Exhibition Center.

Li Guangming, a middle-aged man from Hunan Province, designed the three innovative cars and is the chairman of Lishi Guangming. "Chinese should drive autos designed by Chinese. Cars

designed by foreigners cannot exactly fit into Chinese culture," Li told *Beijing Today* Monday.

The names of his three vehicles, the "Feng," "Ya" and "Song" were taken from the ancient Chinese classic, the *Book of Songs*. "My design inspiration came from the Chinese concept of yin-yang, as reflected in the beauty of Chinese tai chi," Li said.

"Lishi Guangming was established two years ago. I used two years preparing these three cars just for participating in the car show, and invested around 5 million yuan of my own money."

Many international manufacturers expressed interest in Li's cars and even presented him with lucrative offers to buy the designs, but Li turned them all down. "I will only sell my designs to someone who shares my dream of creating a Chinese automobile brand," he said.

## Return Our Car or Else!

By Zhou Ying

A desperate couple climbed up a six-storey building and screamed that they would jump if they did not get their daughter's car back last Thursday afternoon in Haidian District.

Both of the 60-year-old locals were rescued from the building by police, and the husband was kept in detention for three days on charges of upsetting public order.

Following his release on Tuesday, Cao Zhibang told *Beijing Today* he knew that his suicide threat was disruptive, "But I really had no other choice."

Cao said that the car in question had been illegally taken away by a finance company for nearly six months. "I had no way to take the case to court because I do not have enough evidence," he admitted.

His daughter, Cao Peng, hired the Zhonglian Investment Consultancy to act as her agent in securing a bank loan to buy a Volkswagen Bora car in 2002. She also paid the firm to cover her vehicle insurance. "Six months ago, my daughter was



Police reel in Mrs. Cao from her threatened suicidal plunge. Photo by Han Junwei

in an accident, but the insurance company refused to cover the 9,000 yuan of expenses because they had not received payment from the finance company," Cao said.

"My daughter demanded compensation from the company, and they replied they would not pay that sum, but would cover the loan payments to the bank for three months, basically the same amount of money. But three months later, the bank told us they hadn't received a penny."

Cao said that later, when Cao Peng went to the company to look into the matter, an employee grabbed her car keys from her and said she had to fork over at least 5,000 yuan in overdue payment fees.

She immediately called the police, but the officer that arrived on the scene seemed very familiar with company staff. The policeman then said the issue was none of his business because it was an economic dispute. "He didn't even get out of the car!" Cao recalled.

A company employee who refused to be quoted by name told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday that they had the right to take away the car and accused the Caos of lying. "What they said about the insurance policy is totally fictional. They simply had not paid their loan to the commercial bank for several months. We had to take away her car, because they have caused us significant financial losses," the source said.

Fu Gang, manager of the credit department of China Commercial Bank, told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday that Mr. Cao has made all his recent loan payments and that the bank did not have a place in the dispute between the family and the private finance company. "But, I have heard that there was something wrong with the insurance policy," Fu said.

Han Junwei, a press officer for the Haidian police, refused to disclose further details regarding the incident of the suicide threats.

"There have been increasing numbers of reports in recent years of people threatening to throw themselves from buildings or other structures unless their demands are met, such as unpaid workers demanding their wages. I advise people to seek legal means to solve their problems," Han told *Beijing Today*, adding that such acts can have a serious impact on public order and disrupt important police work.

Mr. Cao said he simply hoped the threats would shine light on his problems in public.

"I did not do it for myself or my family. I just want to expose this company to the public to prevent them from cheating anyone else."

"I do not regret the threats. If Liu Liang had not climbed up a billboard, the lottery fraud in Xi'an would not have been publicly exposed," he said, referring to a recent case in Shaanxi Province that has drawn nationwide attention.



## Fleet of Sidecar Motorcycles Sets World Record

By Wang Wei / Gao Xinghua

The racetrack at Golden Port (Jingang) Eminent Vehicle Town in Chaoyang District was taken over by more than 300 old-model motorcycles equipped with sidecars last Sunday.

The riders were not members of a biker gang but the Fengxingzhe club, a group of devout fans of the Chinese-made motorcycles, better known as "kuaizi" in China. It was the largest ever collection of such sidecar bikes, setting a Guinness World Record.

With the waving of a flag, the fleet roared off around the track, though at carefully controlled safe speeds.

"All the motorcycles had to go around the track three times, with

no overtaking and at speeds of no more than 20 miles per hour. Those were the rules for this record attempt," said the notary on hand for the record "race" who would not give his name.

"The former world record was set by a French team of 30 motorcycles with sidecars," said participant Mr. Zhang, leader of the Fengxingzhe club.

The activity was run by a French travel magazine and received strong support from the French Embassy in Beijing.

All participants were volunteers and most local Beijingers, though a few French motorcycle enthusiasts flew to China to take part.

## Fighting Prejudice with Art

By Zhang Jianzhong

China's first exhibition of artwork by people with HIV and AIDS was held at the 3 Ban workshop in the Dashanzi Art District last Saturday.

Over 100 wash paintings and watercolors were displayed on the walls of two rooms. Some were little more than doodles, scrawled with phrases such as "don't discriminate" and "don't cry, man." Besides paintings, the collection consisted of sculptures, colored masks, printed T-shirts and notebooks.

Exhibition sponsor Song Pengfei, China's first HIV carrier to go public, hoped the show could help reduce prejudice against infected people in this country, but never expected the first day to be met with such great public enthusiasm and interest. The two rooms were packed with over 150 people, about half foreigners,

and a representative of a British charity offered 20,000 yuan in financial support on the spot. The sponsor of the show, a television producer who would not give her name, told the *Beijing News* that the purpose of the show was to help people understand the hearts of AIDS patients.

Song, 22, believes general public acceptance of AIDS patients is still a long way off. He said that the biggest obstacle facing Chinese people with HIV was not medical matters, as the Chinese government has started taking action to provide free medication, but social discrimination.

The next step in Song's plan is to bring the artwork to Bangkok, Thailand for the 15th World Conference on AIDS in July. He will then take the show on the road for exhibitions held in different parts of China every three months.



# Big City, Business

By Zhou Ying

Can a city be run like a business? Some cities in China are eagerly applying business practices in their municipal affairs, but some people think that authorities should take serving the public as top priority. Fan Hengshan, Director of the Economic Restructuring Department of the National Development and Reform Commission said on June 6 that he fears the concept is increasing the blurring of government and enterprises, and upsetting the normal order of the market.

Fan said some government officials flaunt the banner of "city management" as an excuse to pull down buildings and make money by selling the land to real estate developers. "As long as the government involves itself in business like this, urban construction will not proceed according to market rules, and the government itself will be in breach of its service orientation."

It's nothing new, however. In the 1930s in America, Rockefeller, the famous tycoon, ran for mayor of New York saying he'd run the city the same way he ran his enterprises. In China in the 1990s, the Mayor of Dalian promised to manage the city as a state asset, and today, more and more cities, such as Xi'an, Qingdao and Shenzhen pursue similar city management models.

Some feel that commercially minded city management can accelerate urban construction and development, and enhance economic progress. Others are concerned about the government dabbling excessively in business.



Shenzhen, a modern metropolis

Photo by Photocore

## Li Jinkui, Deputy Head of Shenzhen Urbanization Study Society

City management is about how to enhance the value of a city. When we evaluate a city, we have to look not only at its asset-liability structure but also the overall value of the city. Assets are not the same as value. When the assets are growing, it is quite likely that depreciation will follow. As the memory of what the city used to be vanishes amidst

the construction, the flavor of the city and its ecology is damaged, so loyalty among the streets and lanes withers and the city loses its original value.

## Qiu Baoxing, Vice Minister of Construction

The concept of city management was raised about 100 years ago in western cities, but it's relatively new in our country. Although many local government officials have explored it, still we do not have a clear theory for guidance.

City management is the only way to solve urban problems, including insufficiency of infrastructure and waste of resources. However, there are still some dangerous misconceptions. For example, there are one or two western cities in China that have been exploited by enterprises, and the result has been great environmental harm.

In order to avoid these mistakes, I think we should try to prevent decision makers from

neglecting people's long-term interests. And we should pay attention to long-term sustainable development of both cities and their surrounding regions.

## Huang Li, an economics expert

In foreign countries, the concept of city management has its own historical background, such as Growth Management in America, and Entrepreneurial Local Management in European countries. In New York, the government applies something called The Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP). This involves experts from different circles voting on various proposals. This process can reduce the negative influence of large-scale projects and can guarantee the fairness and validity of construction projects.

The task of city planning needs this kind of broad based participation. However, we cannot deny that the ULURP may bring about many frictions and lengthy negotiations. But I think we can learn something useful from it.

## Zhang Naijian, Superintendent and Researcher at the Regional Development of China Management and Science Research Academy

As the market becomes mature, city management should shift from the government to market management, and the government should gradually withdraw from it entirely.

The principal part of all commercial activity is enterprises; the government just plays a supervisory role. However, at present, most of the local governments in China are more closely involved.

Nowadays, the government directly engaging in commercial activity results in many problems. For example, some local government officials attempted to sell off the ground where there were hospitals and schools. By doing so, they not only waste national funds for education and medical treatment, but they also shirk responsibility for these social needs. Therefore, the government is becoming more remote from local people.

Government participation in city management will destroy fair competition in the market. It is very hard for some non-governmental businesses to participate under these circumstances.

Beijing's healthy and sustainable development would require moving away from traditional methods of administration and following the concept of modern urban management. At present, the capital has sufficient capital, talented human resources and solid information channels, but it lacks reasonable and scientific administrative mechanisms and concepts for truly improving competitiveness. Therefore,

integrating and making better use of its existing advantages and achieving sustainable construction and economic growth are the central tasks standing before the municipal government in urban management.

## Xu Bing, a member of the China Academy of Social Sciences

I do not completely oppose city management by the government. Nowadays, many local governments lack funds, and under such circumstances it is understandable for them to apply business thinking to management. But the question is whether it can be operated properly.

For a city, it is real progress to build fine new buildings. However, if the prices go up, it can be a great problem for people who live there. At the same time, as the city develops, other problems emerge, such as traffic jams and the disappearance of the natural landscape. However, these problems do not attract enough attention from local governments.

When managing cities, the government should take everything into consideration, not just economics. In that way, people can live in a more harmonious and comfortable society.

## Wang Cheng, general secretary of China Urban Institute

The reason why many people oppose city management is that they do not quite understand it. As Aristotle said 2000 years ago, a city provides citizens with convenience. Take Zhongguancun for example, the government assembles all the electronic products in one area, to make things more convenient for the citizens of Beijing. So it's important to bear in mind this human element of city management.

Another misunderstanding is that people think city management is just about selling off real estate. But there are two kinds of assets in a city. One is the tangible assets, including resources and infrastructure. The other is intangible, like culture and history. Personally, I think the latter is more important.

City management is not only economic. For enterprises, profit is everything. But the government bears responsibility for public security, financial problems, and administration problems. The government should not play the main role in city management; it should merely make the rules.

City management is really a very new concept in China. What we need is qualified city managers. But right now there are no professional colleges in this field in China. I think this kind of college can be expected soon.

# Teenager Buys Mobile Phone

By Zhang Nan

On June 1, Haidian Court heard the case of a 15-year-old girl, Xiao Li, who had bought a mobile phone. The court decided that Xiao Li was underage, and ordered the seller to refund the purchase.

Xiao Li spent 1,200 yuan, her New Year money, on a mobile phone early this year. Soon after, it broke.

Xiao Li's mother lodged an appeal against the seller, Jingchao Times Communication Facilities Distribution Co., Ltd. She thought that Xiao Li was too young to spend this kind of money on a phone and said she had not asked her parents' permission; besides, the phone had a quality problem in its main board. Xiao Li's mother said the court should annul the purchasing contract between Xiao Li and the company and get the company to return double the money Xiao Li spent on the phone.

The company said it didn't know Xiao Li was only 15. Furthermore, when Xiao Li's mother brought up the quality problem of the phone, they said the phone had already been taken apart and reinstalled, so they refused to compensate the double payment.

The Chief Judge said that according to the Civil Law of China, Xiao Li's civil action ability was limited. Although she could choose the color and style of the phone herself, she would not be able to foresee the consequences of her action, such as paying calling fees and repair expenses. Xiao Li's purchase of the phone did not fit her age or her intellect, the judge decided.

## Ma Jiangtao, lawyer, from Dacheng Law Firm

Xiao Li has limited rights in dealing with her money. According to the Supreme Court of the People's Republic of China, "For people above ten years old, to decide whether their action fits



their age and intellect should be based on whether they can see the consequences." Xiao Li bought the phone without asking her parents' permission, so obviously her behavior was invalid.

An underage person can buy something if it doesn't cost that much money and if they know what they're doing. It's not always wrong when underage people spend money on something.

## Wang Zongyu, Vice-Professor, Renmin University of China, School of Law

Nowadays, mobile phones are popular among students. We should consider Xiao Li's case from three aspects: law, reality and justice. Since Xiao Li is already 15 years old, she can make a judgment about the results of her behavior.

Although there are rules about how to decide whether an underage person's behavior is valid, when facing particular cases, the judge should also take all the facts into consideration. However, in my opinion, if an

underage person knows what they are doing, they should be allowed to do it.

## Cui Lin, lawyer, Genesis Law Firm

Whether it's okay for Xiao Li to buy a phone depends on what her parents' say. If they agree, then it's okay. Furthermore, the phone's price is 1,200 yuan, a lot of money for a young girl, so it is necessary for her parents to confirm her action.

On the issue of compensation, I think the sellers should have to return double payment if it was decided they had cheated consumers. In this case, it seems the company had no dishonest intent, so they shouldn't have to return double payment.

## Zhao Qun, Professor, China University of Political Science and Law

It is a kind of treat for parents to give children money for New Year. As the money was given to Xiao Li, she has the right to decide what to do with it. However, according to the Civil Law of China, her use of the money is not valid if what she does with it does not fit her age and intellect.

## Chen Xin, student majoring in tourism management, Capital University of Economics and Business

In my opinion, Xiao Li's done nothing wrong. As a 15-year-old girl, Xiao Li is able to think independently and make decisions on her own. Maybe she was aware that you have to pay for the calling fees and repair expenses. I think she has the ability to deal with the results of her behavior.

Nowadays, the intellectual level of underage people is higher than before. In some technical areas, they know even more than adults. I think young people should have the freedom to do what they want to do on the basis of being responsible for their behavior.



By Dong Nan

The panda is easily the best known of the endangered species in China, but there are eleven other kinds of animals who are far closer to dying out forever, and most of which can only be found in China, according to a new survey by the State Forestry Administration.

The survey, which cost more than 100 million yuan, covered 252 endangered wild animals, and took in the opinions of 15,000 zoology experts.

#### What are they?

The South China tiger is the most endangered of the five remaining tiger subspecies. In the early 1950s, there were 4,000 South China tigers in China. There are believed to be 30 - 80 of them left today.

There are about 50 South China tigers in zoos around the country, but they are all the offspring of six tigers and are not as healthy as tigers from the wild and seem less likely to breed successfully.

The crested ibis is one of the rarest birds in the world, and was so close to extinction at one stage that its numbers declined to single figures in the middle of last century. Its ill fortunes are linked to its extraordinarily beautiful appearance - last century, it was systematically hunted for its long white breeding plumes, which were used to decorate women's hats.

Though work to protect the bird began in the 1980s and has been partially successful, there are still just 500 of them, mainly in Shaanxi Province.

The Guizhou snub-nosed monkey can be found mainly around Fanjing Mountain in Guizhou Province. They have soft golden fur and a bluish face and matching blue eyes. Hunting of them, especially for their fur, made the creature rare by the 1960s, and poaching still remains a problem. However, loss of habitat is the most serious threat, especially the cutting of trees by local residents for firewood and for building homes, as well as deforestation by logging companies.

This February, a report came from Fanjing Mountain that there were only 750 Guizhou snub-nosed monkeys still alive there.

Gibbons, small tree-dwelling apes, often featured in ancient Chinese poetry. However, now they are endangered in China, especially the Hainan gibbon, which is regarded as the world's most endangered primate. There are only 20 left, all in Bawangling Reserve on Hainan Island off the south coast of China. There used to be 2,000 of them in the 1950s.

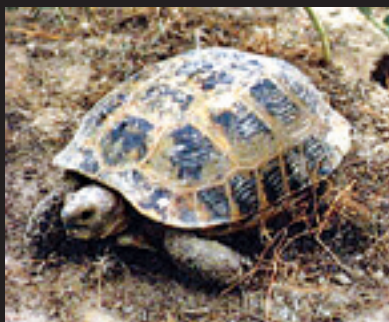
Eld's deer once roamed



Przewalski's gazelle

Photo by Jiang Zhigang

## China's Disappearing Species



Russian tortoise

Photo by Zhao Ermi



Eurasian beaver

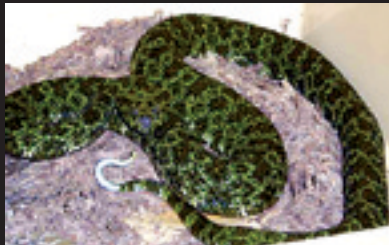


Chinese crocodile lizard

Photo by Xu Jian

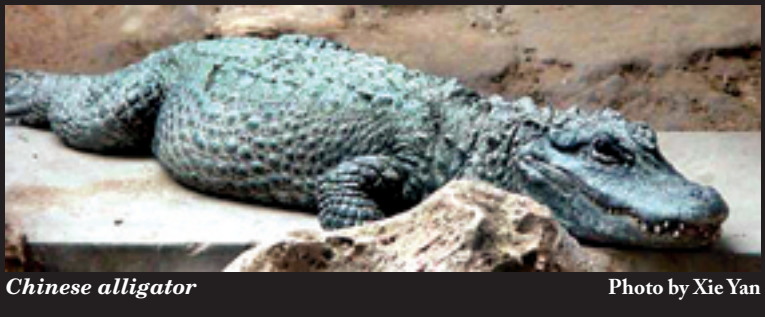


Eld's deer



Mangshan viper

Photo by Vampire



Chinese alligator

Photo by Xie Yan

through Southeast Asia's dry forests in abundant herds. Now it is among the rarest of the world's deer species. Diminished herds that survived World War II fell victim to the Vietnam War. They were an easy target for hungry villagers and soldiers.

In 1976, there were only 26 Eld's deer left on Hainan Island. Through years of protection and carefully encouraged breeding, the number has risen to around 1,000 in Datianling Reserve, Hainan Island. However, according to *Hainan Daily*, a local paper, Datianling Reserve is not big enough to support this many, let alone any more, so it's too early for optimism.

By the side of the deep blue Qinghai Lake in Qinghai Province, there used to be many Przewalski's gazelle, named after Russian explorer Nikolai Przewalski who first spotted them in the 1870s. But now, their numbers are greatly reduced.

After extensive searches in the area, scientists found that as a consequence of human activity, habitat loss and illegal hunting, Przewalski's gazelle had virtually disappeared from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Gansu. Fewer than 300 of them were known to remain in the lands between the desert and steppe around Qinghai Lake in the 1990s. According to Jiang Zhigang, researcher of the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, the number is now far below 200.

The Eurasian beaver is a mammal belonging to the rodent family. It is hailed by zoologists as a living fossil for its incredibly long history on the earth. The body of the Eurasian beaver is round, and it has small eyes and a short head. Its small ears are hidden by fur and can fold over to keep out water. The frontal fore-teeth are so well developed that they can gnaw through big trees.

This hardy little creature used to be found across Asia and Europe, but sadly its fur is also treasured and endless hunting has driven it into more remote areas. In China, it can only be found around Buergen River. There were more than 1,000 20 years ago, but now there are about 70 left.

The Chinese alligator, or Yangtze alligator, is a well known rare animal in China. In the wild it's virtually extinct, but the captive population is around 5,000. Reintroduction programs are hard but offer some hope. However, until they are implemented, extinction in the wild remains probable.

The Russian tortoise lives only in desert regions. In China they can be found only in Huocheng town, Uygur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang. For a long time, local people took them for granted and even put them on roads to see whether their shells were hard enough to withstand impact from automobiles. Now their numbers are less than 1,000.

The Mangshan viper comes from Mangshan Mountain, Hunan Province, and got its name only in 1990. Its full length can reach two meters. Now there are less than 300 of them.

The Chinese crocodile lizard lives in southern Guangxi Province. It's a descendant of the dinosaurs and also regarded as a "living fossil", but it's perilously close to becoming simply a fossil. There are between 300 and 500 of them still alive.

#### Why?

Jiang Zhigang says the major reason why these species are on the verge of extinction is human intervention and habitat destruction. In particular, continuous construction divides up and restricts their habitats.

Jiang spent nine years near Qinghai Lake researching Przewalski's gazelle. From 1994, he says, the grassland there was contracted out to local herdsmen, and every family bordered their land with iron fences. This not only reduced the gazelles' feeding grounds, but also made it harder for them to breed.

Local sheep and goats also competed with them for food. "While the sheep and goats became more numerous, the male gazelles had to yield their territories on the steppe and went into the deserts for shelter. The male gazelles had to wait until domestic herbivores finished their periods of foraging before they could restore control of their breeding territories," said Jiang to *Beijing Today*.

Last April, Xinhua reported on how the building of a large dam in Buergen River posed a grave threat to the Eurasian beavers there. The dam was built by the local government despite the appeals of the local nature reserve.

"We were not able to stop it, and we are so sorry about it," said Hou Jinlei, head of the local reserve to Xinhua.

Human intervention also pulls back the reintroduction to nature program as well. According to Jiang, the captive population of the Chinese alligator is flourishing. However, reintroduction has met with somewhat panicked resistance from local peasants who fear being eaten. They're also worried that the alligators might attack their livestock.

Though China has taken many measures to stop illegal hunting, and sentences are severe for poachers, it continues in many places, even in reserves.

Last July, three Hainan peasants were caught hunting Eld's deer. They were sentenced to nine years in prison and fined 1,000 yuan. Still, on the black market, the price of Eld's deer skin is as high as 30,000 yuan, ten times the annual income of a local peasant.

The low numbers of some species makes breeding more and more difficult and the risk of degeneration of the line is also considerable. For the Hainan gibbon, of which just 20 remain, the future is bleak.

"If there are no more female baby gibbons in the new generation, the Hainan gibbon is really in danger of extinction," said Zhou Lin, researcher of the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Another problem is that the plight of some species does not arouse much attention. "The number of Przewalski's gazelle is far less than that of the panda, the Chinese alligator or Tibetan antelope, but it does not enjoy as much fame as those 'superstar animals,'" said Zhou to *Beijing Today*.

#### Measures to take

According to Zhao Xuemin, vice president of the State Forestry Administration, China has 1,999 nature reserves, which cover 140 million hectares and take up 14.4% of the whole country. This number is higher than the average level among many developed countries. However, to protect the endangered species, more work needs to be done.

At a press conference on June 10, Zhao revealed a project to enlarge the coverage of reserves to 16% of the whole country, so they could protect 90% of China's rare animals and plants. He said that by doing so, the problem of habitat destruction would be greatly alleviated. He also promised that the government would take more stringent action to curb illegal hunting.

Given Przewalski's gazelle as an example, Jiang suggested that a new mode of development for reserves was needed. "As long as local herdsmen remove the fences on their grassland, the feeding ground of Przewalski's gazelle can be guaranteed. That can happen only by renting the land or paying herdsmen to do it. Besides, it is better to create a multi-faceted economy in a local place and release local herdsmen from relying solely on sheep and goats," he told *Beijing Today*.

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The broken steering tension link

# Controversy Surrounds Chinese Bentley

By Wu Chen

Luxury British carmaker Bentley has been doing terrific business at this year's Beijing International Auto Show, selling three out of the four cars on display, including the most expensive one which cost 9.88 million yuan.

Ironically, the company is currently being sued by a man who was the first person in China to buy one of the prestigious motors when he bought his car two years ago.

Real estate investor Guo Yong decided to sue the company after a steering tension link allegedly broke on his car. Last Tuesday, two days before the motor show opened, his case was heard at the Second Intermediate People's Court of Beijing for the second time.

## Snap!

In August 2002, also at the Beijing International Auto Show, Guo Yong spent 4.68 million yuan on a Bentley Arnage RL from Bentley Motors (Beijing), the exclusive local agent for Bentley, becoming the first Bentley buyer in China.

Yet on March 24 2003, seven months after buying the new car and after just 4,089 kilometers, the right steering tension link suddenly broke, so the front right wheel was out of control.

"Fortunately, the malfunction occurred when Guo Yong's driv-

er was in the yard and about to pick up Guo. It didn't cause any other accidents or damage," Yang Younan, one of the lawyers for the plaintiff told *Beijing Today* this week. Yang also said Guo was not giving any interviews in the media.

"After the malfunction occurred, on March 24, a maintenance man, Yin Zhaokang from the Repair Station of Bentley Motors (Beijing) came to examine the problem. He made some basic repairs and asked Guo Yong's driver Yang Donghao to drive the car to the repair station a few days later so a new tension link could be put on the car," Yang Younan told *Beijing Today*.

*Beijing Today* talked with Yin Zhaokang, a technician from Hong Kong. "I tightened it on the site, and asked them to drive the car to the repair station for a proper examination," Yin said.

## No explanation

The broken tension link was sent to Bentley Motors (Beijing) for quality examination as requested by Guo Yong as he thought there might be some quality problem with the car. However, he received no explanation, just an apology from Bentley Motors (Hong Kong).

Guo then appealed to the Second Intermediate People's Court, demanding to return the car and get back the money he paid for it plus 482,000 yuan in related fees, such as purchase tax, from Bentley Motors (Britain) and Bentley Motors (Beijing).

Yang Younan said to *Beijing Today*, "Since the company was not willing to show us the result of their quality examination re-



Guo Yong's Bentley

port, Guo Yong dared not use the car any more. We appealed to the court on the basis of Guo Yong's personal safety and the security of other citizens."

Yang told *Beijing Today* Monday that he himself graduated from the Department of Auto Engineering and that when he came across the case, he was confident of victory.

"I thought we would definitely win the case," he said. "Bentley says in its advertisement that its products are perfect and many parts of the cars are hand made.

Besides the number of cars they produce is quite small, so quality problems are unforgivable."

*Beijing Today* phoned Bentley Motors (Beijing) on Monday, but a secretary said that the director Zheng Haojiang, who is in charge of this case and is the only one who can talk about it, was on a business trip abroad, and that no-one else in the company had the authority to comment. Zhao Yang from the Sales Department also said to *Beijing Today*, "The whole company does not want to say

anything about this case. We are just waiting for the verdict from the court."

## Dodgy judge

On May 24, the case was heard for the first time. To the surprise of the court, the hearing had to be adjourned after Bentley Motors (Beijing) applied for a new hearing panel. They questioned the impartiality of the presiding officers of the court, saying chief judge Li Shuxin and court clerk Jin Hong had published reports about the

case in the media as correspondents which revealed a clear bias in favor of the plaintiff, so the first hearing was over after about 15 minutes.

Professor Wang Zongyu told *Chinese News Network* on May 25 that if the judicial officer's reports had been clearly inclined towards the plaintiff, the application by the defendant would indeed be considered reasonable.

However, after the court's discussion on May 27th, this application was rejected.

In the meantime, on May 27, the plaintiff withdrew the appeal against Bentley Motors (Beijing), and instead targeted the British head office. Lawyer Yang Younan said, "As customers, we have the right to choose whom to accuse, the producer or the seller." They thought that it seemed that Bentley Motors (Beijing) didn't have any evidence to show, but that the head office in Britain might.

Bentley Motors (Beijing) claimed that before it sold the car to Guo, it had showed him all the legal documents about the car's security and quality, so that it had undertaken the full extent of its duty and shouldn't be held responsible for any flaws in the design.

The branch also argued that as the seller, it had no responsibility or obligation to bear the burden of proof for the producer if there were any design problems.

However, Li Xiandong, professor of Civil, Commercial and Economic Law from China University of Political Science and Law told *Beijing Today* this week that according to the Quality of Product Law of The People's Republic of China, if products do have quality problems, the seller should also take responsibility for it, and whether to accuse the producer or the seller should be down to the plaintiff.

## What's the problem?

Now the question is whether or not the car had quality problems. The plaintiff has asked three experts from the Department of Automotive Engineering of Tsinghua University to examine the car's tension link.

They drew the conclusion that there might be two reasons for the problem: one was that the screw cap might not have been tightened during production; the other was that the design itself might have some flaws which could cause the screw cap to become loosened during driving.

Yang Donghao, Guo's chauffeur, told *Beijing Today* that last year when he went to repair the Bentley, Yin Zhaokang told him that a few other Bentleys similar to Guo Yong's had similar problems and had already been fixed.

When asked about this by *Beijing Today*, Yin Zhaokang denied saying anything of the kind. "The problem with Guo's Bentley was the screw cap breaking off and I am not clear about the cause. I found no problem that day. I haven't seen any other Bentleys with the same problem, either in Beijing or Hong Kong." At the second hearing on June 8, Bentley Motors (Beijing) said there was a possibility the owner had loosened the screw cap himself for some purpose or that someone else had done it, so it could not be proved that it was a quality problem with the part.

"Under this situation, the plaintiff should still bear the burden of proof," Professor Li Xiandong told *Beijing Today*.

As the link has been sent to Bentley Motors in Britain and never returned, Guo's receipt from Bentley Motors (Beijing) regarding the original problem is now the only evidence about the broken link the plaintiff can show in court.

Bentley entered the Chinese market in 2002, and soon became a favorite among Chinese millionaires. As for the sales volume of Bentley in China, Zhao Yang from the Sales Department of Bentley Motors (Beijing) told *Beijing Today* that by 2004, Bentley had sold nearly 100 cars in China.

# An Accident Waiting to Happen?

By Gao Xinghua

After a bridge collapsed in Liaoning Province last Thursday, the local authorities declared there had been no casualties even though it appeared that several vehicles had fallen into the river. Now, questions are being asked about the official version of events.

The central section of Tianzhuangtai Bridge near Panjin fell into the river, and witnesses said they saw a truck and two cars fall. However, the investigation group declared last Saturday that there had been no deaths in the accident and that only one vehicle had fallen into the river. The driver of a truck that had been caught in the collapse was rescued by locals.

There have also been complaints about why the bridge remained open even though it had been regarded as dangerous for some time. "The accident was not unexpected. Only the lack of casualties is surprising," said one witness.

## A loud roar

The central section of the bridge, measuring about 22 meters long, gave way on Thursday morning, apparently the result of a snapped girder. The water below is about 10 meters deep.

"I was on my way back home from Yingkou with my wife when I drove across the bridge," Zhang Haitao recalled. "I suddenly saw the truck about 10 meters in front of us had disappeared, and there was a great roaring noise. I thought something must have happened, so I braked quickly. My motor tricycle came to a stop just at the edge."

Another bus driver was also grateful for good luck. The bus was on its way from Yingkou to Panjin and the bridge collapse happened only a few me-



Perched on the edge.

ters behind it. After passengers got to safety on the other side of the river, many of them were in tears and in great distress, according to Xinhua.

Kan Jianyong was on board a truck which fell into the river. He was rescued, but he believes there must have been casualties. "I saw two people fall into the river shouting for help, but soon they were swept away by the stream," he said.

## Doubts about the government report

Last Saturday, Zhang Yan, the government spokesman for Panjin, declared the vehicles that had fallen into the river could not be salvaged.

On the same day, the local government said the only people it had found who had fallen into the river had been taken to hospital and that no deaths could be confirmed. Zhang Haitao said



Zheng Yuzhuo, the director of Liaoning Province Communication Department, refused to answer any question from CCTV.

Photo by photocom

that as well as the truck he had seen, one red car in front also disappeared from his vision.

Kan Jianyong, the lucky driver saved from the river said another truck had disappeared, according to *Qianlong News*.

"If the two drivers are right, there are at least three vehicles in the river," said one member of the rescue team.

"Judging from the conditions,

we think the other two vehicles have already been swept away by the river. Because of the silt, our visibility is very poor. Our salvage work is difficult," said by Li Bingjun, director of the salvage project, quoted in *Xiaoxiang Morning News*.

"Last Saturday, the body of a man was found. It was the only corpse found after the accident. The police came here and left without any word," said Zhan Zhenman, a member of the legal medical office of nearby Yingkou. "But the police ruled out the possibility that he might have been a casualty from this accident because he was believed to have died more than 72 hours before, and the accident took place just 50 hours before," said zhan quoted in *Beijing Morning News*.

## Dangerous or not?

The bridge was built in the 1970s, but since then it has

survived several earthquakes and serious traffic accidents. In 1995, it was described as dangerous by local authorities. Local drivers and inhabitants have been worried about the bridge for years.

At the bridge end, there is a post saying "dangerous bridge ahead, speed limit 20 kilometers/hour, weight limit 15 tons, no overtaking."

On Monday, Zheng Yuzhuo, director of the provincial Department of Communications told *Huashang Morning Post*, "expert opinion on the cause of this accident is excessive usage of the bridge. Under the pressure of extra weight, the bridge could not bear the burden," he said.

However, Zhang Hetang, vice director of the Panjin Department of Communications insisted it was not a dangerous bridge. "The bridge was rebuilt and reinforced in 2000," he told *Beijing Today*.

## Who's responsible?

"There used to be one department responsible for supervision of vehicles on the bridge. Now supervision is a roving post," said an official working at the provincial Department of Communications.

All the other large bridges in Liaoning Province are now being given a thorough examination, following a directive from the provincial government.

"The bridge administration level will also be looked at," said Zheng Yuzhuo, Director of Liaoning Provincial Department of Communications.

"New measures, such as GPS satellite orientation system and driving record machines will be installed along the main highways to improve safety," he said, according to *Huashang Morning News*, a Xi'an-based newspaper.





Zhou Haixiang and one of the swans he saved

'I had never had the chance to lie in bed, listening to the singing of the faraway swans for several days. I find no music can be as pleasant as that sound.'



Tian'e Lake in Shandong Province

Photos provided by Zhou Haixiang

## Save the Swans

Zhou Haixiang, photographer and environmental activist, aims to tell the world about the plight of Shandong's swans

By Shan Jinliang

In one early April afternoon, a talk was being given about how the white swans in Shandong Province were dying because of food shortages and environmental degradation. One reporter's daughter could not help crying at the story and many other reporters burst out in applause at this exposure of the animals' plight.

The speaker was Zhou Haixiang, a photographer who has specialized in birds and environmental promotion for around 20 years. The talk was backing up an exhibition of photos of swans in Shandong, aimed at raising social concern over the issue.

When he first saw the gatherings of swans in Shandong Province in 1996, Zhou was stunned by the beauty of the birds and he found their calls to each other better than any kind of music.

The stories of the white swans, a mixture of beauty and misery, have been the major topic of a series of speeches that Zhou has given at universities around the country. He says his days of photographing the swans were mixed with happiness and sadness since he was around these wonderful creatures but had to bear witness to their starving and death. Though his heart sunk sometimes, it made his mission to help save the birds more urgent.

### An escape from grimy reality

One of Zhou's close friends is Han Zhong, a businessman who shares Zhou's passion for birds and environmental protection. "Few people are as idealistic and clear-sighted as him," says Han.

Han often delays returning to his business to stay with Zhou, often for around 10 days at a time, when he's taking pictures. He's also written poems for the brochures that Zhou has issued. Many business people in his hometown, Shenyang, also now support Zhou's efforts.

Zhou was born in 1959 in Shenyang, Liaoning Province. He used to be a news photographer. "I even won first prize in a national news photo contest, but later I found it tiring to focus too much on reality. I started to shoot natural scenes and animals in 1987," Zhou told *Beijing Today*.

Zhou did not give up his



Zhou Haixiang on the lookout for Black-faced Spoonbills in Dalian

teaching at Shenyang Technology Institute, but with relatively few classes, he had enough time to travel around and work as a part-time photographer.

Zhou has always been a fan of classical music, including Tian'e Lake by Tchaikovsky of course. But when he traveled to the Tian'e Lake in Shandong Province in 1996, he found the sounds of the swans in the wild more beautiful than his music.

On one occasion Zhou visited the lake with his

wife and daughter during the Spring Festival holiday of 1999, but he caught a fever one day before the festival and had to stay in bed.

"I had never had the chance to lie in bed, listening to the singing of the faraway swans for several days," said Zhou. "I find no music can be as pleasant as that sound."

Hundreds of swans would crowd onto the tiny lake near Dalian, and from 1996 Zhou was a regular visitor with his camera gear. But since the late 1990s, he has seen the swans being

forced away from their regular habitat, and has seen many of them die or become sick in the deteriorating environment.

### Death of the swans

As finding food became more difficult, swans started eating the leaves of the green winter wheat of local farmers, so the farmers put up nets to protect it. This resulted in a lot of injuries to the swans, and without immediate rescue, they would usually die.

Zhou was always careful not to disturb the swans,

but he noticed other photographers driving them forwards in order to get pictures of them in flight. Some of the swans were caught in nets at the time so this made their injuries worse.

In recent years, the swampland around lake areas has started filling up with new apartments and villas, and the local government cleared away the silt in the lake. All this forced the swans to leave for a new habitat. Sometimes, they looked for food in dirty rivers where people washed clothes and poured away sewage.

One morning, late in 2001, Zhou went to the lake with his friend, Yuan Xueshun to take pictures, but he found only two swans left, one of which appeared to be ill.

Zhou brought the sick swan to a rescue center. The swan weighed only 12 kilograms, much lower than the average 20 to 30 kilograms, so it was given an injection and fed. "The swan died at 8:30 pm that day," said Zhou sadly.

### Uncle Bird

Zhou has gained the nickname Uncle Bird and is now known as China's No.1 bird photographer. He spends about one third of his time working at the Ecological Environmental Research Center of Shenyang Technology Institute and the rest on his hobby, taking pictures of the birds.

One of the most endangered birds Zhou has focused on is the Black-faced Spoonbill. They are very rare and can be found mainly on a tiny island near Dalian. After he began visiting the island to take pictures in 2001, Zhou noticed that people had started building houses there.

This drove away a number of the Black-faced Spoonbills, and in June 2003, hoping to protect their natural habitat, Zhou went to see his friend, He Mingzhou, a deputy mayor of Dalian in charge of environmental protection. He then released an order that no-one could live on the island.

However, the press still find the Black-faced Spoonbills very interesting and often visit the island. If they're not careful, this can still disturb their regular breeding. Zhou told *Beijing Today* he offers his photos from the island free of charge to help avoid further disturbance for the birds.

### Take action

Zhou says more and more he is moving from being a photographer to being an environmental activist, after witnessing what has happened in China and the severity of its environmental destruction.

"Urban citizens pursue money and material interests without end," Zhou said, "and they consume much more energy than they should, causing the waste of substantial resources."

He feels the top priority in China should be to launch an environmental protection campaign. Zhou said he had some friends that can help him protect the environment, but he said he was powerless most of the time, such as the loss of swan's habitats in Shandong.

"College students will be the leaders of the next generation," he told *Beijing Today*, "so I hope my environmental education plan for college students can be a long-term one."

Zhou intends to keep on travelling around China making speeches at top universities in Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and other cities. Some universities are most enthusiastic about hosting Zhou's speeches and have even invited him to make speeches there more than once. Zhou also plans to produce DVDs and distribute them to universities nationwide.

One of the biggest problems Zhou is faced with is the lack of money for his travels and photographs. He gets more than one third of the money from the World Wildlife Foundation after helping run some projects with them, and if his own income does not suffice, he seeks help from his friends in Shenyang.

But Zhou is not afraid and nor does he feel lonely since his wife and daughter or other photographers accompany him on most of his travels.

Zhou said he was so happy to see that his wife generally supports his work, and his daughter has also become a photographer and environmentalist. Zhou's life is still very simple: traveling, shooting pictures of birds, making speeches and listening to music.





By Song Yin

Venice, Berlin, New York, London and now Beijing. The Arts and Crafts of Fashion in Venice is the title of an exhibition currently underway at the National Museum of China.

The city of canals is one of the world's best-known scenic spots, while the Venetian school of art, represented by artists such as Tiziano, Paolo Veronese, Tiepolo and Canova, is inextricably tied up in the evolution of western civilization and culture.

However attempts to illustrate the aspects of the Venetian Republic connected with daily life, production activities, handicrafts and trade are relatively rare. Yet such things are no less important than the most sublime artistic and literary happenings, the great military achievements or the incomparable diplomatic activity. Together they combined to make Venice a universe of good taste, variety and elegance, a place where the quality of life reached peaks that have never been known or equaled since then.

Laws, regulations, statutes, traditions and conventions on one hand, cultural heredity, tricks of the trade and technical virtuosity on the other: all this held the world of fashion together until the end of the Venetian Republic. Before the popularity of fashions and cultural models from abroad, this mechanism provided a significant vehicle for cultural communication, occupying the stage in a Europe that was on the brink of change, yet firmly anchored to its traditions.

The arts of fashion certainly did not occupy a secondary position in the system: from tailors to shoemakers, from weavers to hairdressers, from furriers to lace-makers, a considerable share of the town's economy and activities was centered on fashion. A meticulous organization of crafts both protected the peculiarity and originality of Venetian fashion and encouraged its protagonists to make new inventions and experiments. It kept Venetian manufacturing always at a high standard, making it an example to be imitated and a model in which to seek inspiration.

The craftsmen were often no less worthy of note and no less inspired than the great artists of the major genres, with whom they frequently had occasion to collaborate.

#### Art of the shoemakers

Children's shoes, men's and woman's shoes, overshoes, boots, slippers, shoe buckles and even tools of shoemakers are displayed in the exhibition.

The guild of the Venetian shoemakers or *calegheri* has a

## Fashionable Venice Comes to Beijing



Shawl, circu 1665, Vittoria de Buzzaccarini Collection.



Cobbler's bench, tools and wooden shoe last, 18th-19th centuries, Giuseppe Menin Collection.

long history. Its first *capitolare*, or charter, dates back to 1260. Like many other Venetian guilds, the shoemakers were divided into specific divisions, each concentrating on a particular process or type of shoes.

The inventiveness of the Venetian shoemakers resulted in an extraordinary variety of shapes and designs, especially for women's shoes, which were sometimes highly impractical. The extraordinary designs testify to the Venetian weakness for new

and sometimes shocking styles. The fashion for platform shoes for ladies meant that a lady was often unable to move without the help of two people to balance her between them.

At the end of the 18th century the *calegheri* were swept away after the overthrow of the Republic. The few who survived in the shops, were reduced mostly to the modest activity of cobbler or mender of old shoes. Yet it was in Venice, along the banks of the River Brenta, that before the end

of the 19th Century an inspired rebirth of the art took place thanks to a modern shoe industry, which developed and grew up, becoming today a leader in the shoe fashion all over the world.

#### Art of the tailors

The *cuoiette*, a kind of waistcoat, suede leather embroidered with green silk, pearls and gilded silver, padded with horsehair on the abdomen, was usually worn over the jacket. "Toga with stole" (Venice, 16th-17th century) was the senator's surcoat in red demasque with flowing sleeves. The stole is in *altobasso* (pile-on-pile) velvet with an alternating rose diamond and crown embellishment.

The difficulties of the trade, or "the toil of the art" as defined by Tommaso Garzoni, are determined as much by the thousands of stitches and the diversity of decoration as by the continuous evolution in the shape of the clothes which, in his opinion, even changed "by the day."

An excellent tailor knew about mantles and cloaks, robes and skirts, capes and gabardines, doublets and jerkins, pinafores, tunics, overcoats, crinolines,



Arlecchino mask, 20th century, Musei Civici, Museo di Casa Goldoni.



Photos by Bao Wei

stockings, breeches, socks, bodices, sleeves, aprons, copes, shirts, hoods, caps ... many of which can be seen in the exhibition.

According to Fioravanti in his *Specchio di scienze universale*, the true arbiter of 16th Century Venetian elegance was Master Giovanni, a "worthy and keen tailor," with his shop situated in San Lio, "possessed so much experience" as to be capable of working "any kind of garment you can possibly imagine, and mostly Venetian clothing, which is very difficult to make."

#### Art of the mask makers

An old Venetian tradition is that of wearing masks. The capricious and playful tradition was so popular amongst the Venetians that it was continuously regulated throughout the centuries.

The use of masks in Venice meant encouraging people to flout the authorities, or simply to dress up and enjoy themselves. In this way, all social classes could more freely enjoy the Venetian carnival, which lives on today.

The existence of a specific legislation intended to limit Venetians' habit of disguising themselves, attests the existence

of this habit as far back as 1268. In that year, a law forbade people wearing masks from throwing eggs, whether real or filled with perfume.

Naturally, the widespread habit made the trade of the *maschereri*, or maskmakers, indispensable. The craftsmen created face masks with pasteboard of fabric, glue, chalk and colored paint.

Noblemen, middle and working class alike turned to the *maschereri* to purchase their masks. In the second half of the 17th century, well-to-do Venetians hid their real identity and their usual dress under the *bauta*. Ladies and the middle classes from the middle of the 17th century onwards also used to cover themselves completely with the *domino* and a fantasy "face," or envelop themselves in the *zendale*, a long silk scarf, sometimes made more voluminous on the head with the aid of light metal scaffolding. Young women and commoners preferred placing an overskirt, also known as *nizioletto* on their heads, holding the *moretta* on their face with the aid of a button held tightly between their teeth or by a stick.

*Arlecchino* (the leather mask is traditionally considered to have been invented by Michelangelo), *Bauta* (white unisex face mask, typical of Venice.) and *moretta* (typically worn by 18th century bourgeois and commoner ladies) are all displayed in the exhibition.

#### Other sections

Visitors may see *sciamito* (a kind of thick velvet), typical motif with eagles and wheels; *lampa* (in golden framework against a sky-blue background. The Chinese influence of the embellishment is evident); *inferriata* and various styles of brocade in The Art of the Silk Weavers section.

There are also sections titled The Art of the Haberdashers, The Art of the Dyers, The Art of Wool and The Art of the Cotton and Linen Weavers. Through the different sections, the story of the history of the Republic of Venice (from 1200 to the end of 1700) is told, looking at the art and fashion trade as a representation of creativity, quality and value of products extending way beyond the precious objects themselves in the exhibition.

The overall layout of the exhibition is a reconstruction of the old traders' market, aiming to present, as did the old Fiera della Sensa, the most typical and best products of centuries of activity of Venice's professional craftsmen in the world of fashion. The exhibition windows and wooden booths was designed by Architeti Associate Micconi and Todeschini, Venice.

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## Blood-sucking Ballet

By Yu Shanshan

Vampire myths and legends have never featured prominently in Chinese culture, however that has not deterred ballet dancer Zhang Weiqiang from bringing a classic of the genre to his homeland. *Dracula*, performed by Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, will be staged at Poly Theatre on June 24 and 25.

It is a perfect story for a ballet: Girl meets vampire. Girl grows pale. Suitors and doctor try to help with garlic and crosses. Girl dies and rises again, but with a nasty streak. Girl dispatched by those who love her. Another girl meets vampire. Boyfriend joins the hunt for vampire along with suitors and doctor. Girl thwarts fanged one. Vampire meets grisly end ...

Though it was Universal Studio's 1931 film that ensured Count Dracula his immortality and shaped Dracula's image

around the world, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's *Dracula* owes much more to the original novel by Irish author Bram Stoker, published in 1897, which recognizes that Dracula is far more than a morality tale about the supremacy of good over evil.

Set to the music of Gustav Mahler, *Dracula* features choreography by Mark Godden. Since its world premiere in October 1998, the production has toured the world to acclaim from both audiences and critics. CBC's *Arts Today* called it, "an original, made-in-Canada, full-length story ballet that combines wit, intelligence, theatricality and fine dancing in one very entertaining package."

A Singapore daily wrote, "With clever staging and strong dancing as its twin fangs, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's *Dracula* kept the audience under its spell."

Call 8528 2222 for bookings.

## What's on DVD

By Jiang Haoshu

### Wind from Thailand

Want to match the recent Thai-style fashion with some original Thai films? This four-DVD set is a good pick, containing four recent Thai films: *The Last Love*, *The Last Life of the Universe*, *Automatic Beauty* and *Sin Sisters*. DVD 5, Thai language with Chinese, English and Thai subtitles.



### Once Upon A Time In Italy

Some of the greatest American Western films came out of Italy. This collection includes five classic Italian Western films: *A Bullet for the General*, *Companeros*, *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, *Keroma*, and *Texas Adios*. DVD 5, English and Italian language, Chinese subtitles.



### Wang Jing Special Edition: Playing Cards Standard

Bingo! Wang Jing's eight famous gambling-themed films are now collected in one pack. This nicely designed pack of eight DVD includes *The Conman (I, II, 1999 and in Vegas)*, *Saint of the Gamblers*, *The Tricky Master*, and *God of Gamblers (I, III)* – every one is great fun! DVD 5, Chinese and Cantonese, with Chinese and English subtitles.



### Billboard Singles Top 5

Title	Artist	Album
Burn	Usher	Confessions
The Reason	Hoobastank	The Reason
I Don't Wanna Know	Mario Winans Featuring Enya and P. Diddy	Hurt No More
Naughty Girl	Beyonce	Dangerously In Love
Confessions	Usher	Confessions

### Official UK Singles Top 5

Title	Artist	Album
I Don't Wanna Know	Mario Winans Featuring Enya and P. Diddy	Hurt No More
Come On England	4-4-2	Come On England (CD-Single)
Dragonstea Din Tei	O-Zone	Dragostea Din Tei (CD-Single)
Trick Me	Kelis	Tasty
All Together Now 2004	The Farm featuring SFX Boys Choir	All Together Now 2004 (CD-Single)

Usher remains the hottest thing on Billboard's Hot 100 as *Burn* leads the countdown for the fifth week in a row. The second single from the R&B artist's latest LaFace/Zomba album *Confessions* is also the chart's fastest growing track at radio with a gain of 17 million listeners, according to Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems.

Usher's command of the Hot 100

continues with three singles in the top 10 for the third week in a row. *Confessions Part II*, the third radio single from *Confessions*, continues its climb with an 8-5 move, while former No. 1, *Yeah!* featuring Lil' Jon and Ludacris, drops two slots to No. 6 this week.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Mario Winans remained at No. 1 on the U.K. singles chart with *I Don't Wanna Know* featuring

P. Diddy and Enya. The cut fended off stiff competition from a new entry at No. 2, *Come On England* by 4-4-2. That track is being billed as the unofficial theme song for England's Euro 2004 soccer team, which lost its opening game against France on Sunday. Other new entries on the singles chart included O-Zone's *Dragostea Din Tei* at No. 3.



## WORLDWIDE

### Streep Receives Life Achievement Award

Inhuman. Shape-shifter. Spirit channeler. Too perfect. Those were the unusual accolades bestowed upon Meryl Streep by some of her famous colleagues Thursday night as the actress received a lifetime achievement award from the American Film Institute.

Jim Carrey, Jack Nicholson, writer-director Nora Ephron and Shirley MacLaine all paid tribute to the Oscar winner. "She plays all of us better than we play ourselves," Ephron said.

Streep, 54, has two Academy Awards: supporting actress for 1979's *Kramer vs. Kramer* and lead actress for 1982's *Sophie's Choice*. She holds the record for most total Oscar nominations with 13. "Meryl Streep is an alien," Mary-Louise Parker, her co-star in the recent HBO mini-series *Angels in America*, said in a taped segment. "It really doesn't make any sense to me that she could do all that and still be human."

(AP) Jackie Chan Seeks to Become 'True Actor'

Jackie Chan is attempting his most daring stunt ever: becoming what he calls a "true actor."

Chan says he wants to shed his action star image in favor of meatier roles that require dialogue and emotion instead of punches and kicks. "I want to change. I want to be like Robert DeNiro. I want to be Dustin Hoffman," said the big-screen star from Hong Kong. "I don't always want it to be like the old days. ... I want to change my image. I want to become an actor who can fight – not an action star."

At 50, the high-flying martial arts master says he'll probably do his own stunts for another five years. But a more serious image could provide some job security, he said. "Even though I'm pretty good, how long can I keep fighting?" he said. "Look at Robert DeNiro. Look at Clint Eastwood. They still can act."

(AP) 'Fahrenheit 9/11' Director Has Blair in Sight?

It was widely reported this week that Michael Moore, director of the controversial

documentary *Fahrenheit 9/11*, intended to shift his attention in his next documentary to Tony Blair and his role in backing the war in Iraq and sending troops into harm's way.

"I personally hold Blair more responsible for this war in Iraq than I do George W. Bush, and the reason is Blair knows better. Blair is not an idiot. What is he doing hanging around this guy?," Moore told Reuters in an interview last Friday.



Michael Moore

However according to Moore's website, the award-winning filmmaker has no plans to take on the British government at present.

An article titled *Sorry to Scare You Tony: Michael Moore Was Just Joking* says, "Michael made a joke about his next film being about Tony Blair in an interview and, apparently, it was taken seriously."

(Reuters)

### Legendary Musician Ray Charles Dies

Legendary singer Ray Charles, whose gospel and blues-tinged music touched generations of music lovers and pervaded a number of films, died Thursday at his Beverly Hills home after a long battle with liver disease; he was 73.

Blind by the age of seven, Charles's musical gifts transcended genres, as he went from country to jazz to blues to gospel with agility and left his mark on each.

Ballads like *Georgia on My Mind*, R&B hits like *Hit the Road Jack* and his iconic interpretation of America the Beautiful were just a few of the hits that won him 12 Grammy Awards, nine of which he received between 1960 and 1966. Appearing on innumerable TV specials (which earned him three Emmy nominations), Charles's best-known screen appearance was his show-stopping turn in *The Blues Brothers*.



Ray Charles

A biopic about Charles, entitled *Ray*, is slated for release later this year starring Jamie Foxx and Regina King.

(IMDB)

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## Friendly Neighborhood Flower Stores

By Wang Yue / Chen Si  
Little adds more life, cheer and fresh oxygen to a home than a vibrant live plant or flowers. Beijing's hot summer is an ideal time to start a windowsill garden, regularly keep cut flowers in a vase, or add a splash of green to a shady corner of a room.

Fortunately, finding a new plant or fresh roses is often as easy as heading to a neighborhood plant store, which quietly populate all parts of the city. Such shops offer many different kinds of flora and normally at very reasonable prices.

The **Qianzhi Huawu** store, or "House of a Thousand Flowers," has been operating in the Jiaodaokou area for nine years. In the center of the store is a big spinning shelf stocked with deluxe cut flowers like lush lilies and grand gladiolas.

The fragrant lilies, most in white and pink, fetch 10 yuan to 15 yuan per stem. Less expensive but no less beautiful are the champagne roses that cost around 4 yuan each.

Besides flowers, the store also sells lots of little toys and other gifts perfect for that special someone or simply for adding a little fun to a bland space.

**Where:** No. 31 Jiaodaokou Nandajie, Dongcheng  
**Open:** 8 am - 10 pm  
**Tel:** 6400 4883



Classy fake flowers at Lirenxing, 900 yuan Photos by Li Shuzhuan

The **Yuanding Huadian** is a popular store in the Shatan area, near the National Gallery of Fine Arts, that draws lots of customers with its wholesale products and unusual floral baskets.

The store buys in bulk to pass savings to shoppers. Roses, whether pink, red or other shades, are priced at 3 yuan a pop, while white and orange lilies are a bargain at 6 yuan or less a stem.

The store's winning floral baskets are designed by an employee with an amateur interest in *ikebana*, the traditional Japanese art of flower arrangement. Many basket contain mixtures of roses, gladiolas and bamboo for contrast, and prices start at 150 yuan.

**Where:** No. 97, Shatan Beiheyuan Lu, Dongcheng  
**Open:** 8 am - 10 pm  
**Tel:** 8511 3361

Shoppers looking to avoid the nuisance of daily watering and death can pick up lasting yet life-like artificial blooms made of synthetic resin at the **Lirenxing** store. The translucent and stylish fake flowers are made of imported material that will not lose its color and can easily be cleaned with a sponge and water. Prices range from 36 yuan to 56 yuan per flower.

Also on hand are the basic materials for customers to make their own fake flowers for the fee of 70 yuan, all inclusive. There are eight colors to choose from, or make several types for a lasting, colorful spread.

The same opalescent resin is also crafted into a series of appealing and cheap rings (20 yuan) and brooches (30 yuan to 100 yuan)

**Where:** First floor, Laitai Flower Market, Chaoyang  
**Open:** 9 am - 6 pm  
**Tel:** 8454 2871

The charmingly small **Huayifang** store near Wudaokou in Haidian District



Trailing plants at Huayifang, 49 yuan

is a fine place to pick up both fresh flowers and more lasting potted plants. Many of the plants, priced from around 50 yuan to 100 yuan, are very happy in the shade, meaning all it takes them to raise them at home or in the office is proper watering.

Despite its compact size, the store stocks a diverse range of unusual cut flowers, including



Glass vase at Jialan Yuanyi, 60 yuan

the popular dendranthema. Not only beautiful, these flowers keep their sweet scent for up to two weeks in the summer and a full four weeks in cold weather. Huayifang sells many varieties of dendranthema, such as "Reagon", "Tiger," "Dark Splendid," and "Vesuvio", all priced at 2 yuan to 3 yuan a stem.

Customers after flowers not immediately in stock can

pick and choose from the store's handbook, which lists many kinds of flowers available for order and even their English names. Staff are on hand to assist, making even exotic blooms just an easy order away.

**Where:** No. 2 Lanqiyang, Haidian

**Open:** 8 am - 9 pm  
**Tel:** 6279 4655

If size does matter, then the flower shop Jialan Yuanyi has the goods to be downright cocky. Moreover, the store gets its supplies from a plant base in Kunming in distant Yunnan Province, and the top-quality blooms arrive fresh every day.

Jialan Yuanyi backs up its size and stock with superior service, as all employees have undergone at least three years of professional florist training.

Every corner of the sprawling store is filled with plants and flowers, ranging from familiar favorites like carnations, forget-me-nots and lilies to more exotic species. Opposing wall displays are devoted to an attractive range of vases in glass and porcelain, with none priced over 100 yuan. With its clear strengths, the store does very solid business, and has cultivated a regular clientel of hotels, apartments and companies over several years.

**Where:** No. 9 Dayun Gongyu, Zhichun Lu, Haidian  
**Open:** 8 am - 10 pm  
**Tel:** 8235 1331

## Sweet Sleep

By Wang Yao

There is a surprisingly large demand for quality bed linen in this city, large enough to allow international manufacturer/retailer-Aussino to open nine stores in this city.

Key factors to the stores' success are high standards of quality and design as well as their range of brands that appeals to all customers.

The Sino range has a uniquely modern and trendy flavor. With soft autumn shades of white, brown, grey and ivory, Sino designs use luxurious fabrics such as cotton sateen and linen, which justifies the prices, starting from 579 yuan per set. This range is a favorite for fashionable white collars.

Aussino's Royal Symphony collection feature jacquard bed linen that exudes impressive elegance and comfort made from cotton sateen and faux silk. Colors of this collection are elegant and classical, featuring gold, ivory and pink.

Teenagers and young adults will fall in love with the Inspire range, which features fresh looking designs and vibrant colors. Price starts from 179 yuan for a four-piece printed set. The "Romeo and Juliet" design is



Butterflies, Print, 179 yuan

especially popular.

For children, check out the Aussino Kids range, all of which are made of pure cotton. Patterns differ with target age group, ranging from cartoons and dreamy pictures for children from 4 to 12 to the Aussino Babies range featuring soothing patterns of rainbows and butterflies for toddlers below the age of four. Prices go from 179 yuan to 399 yuan per set.

The Aussino Whites collection features a wide spread of pillows, quilts, printed comforters and cushions made from selective quality materials. The fabric cotton used is of high quality, softness and breathability to ensure comfort in all seasons.

**Where:** Second floor, Piaoliang Shopping Center, No. 68 Anli Lu, Chaoyang  
**Open:** 9 am - 9 pm  
**Tel:** 6498 9482

## Soothing Scents, Assuaging Aromas

By Wang Yao

Pretty Rally, a Canadian chain of natural perfumes, fragrances and aromatherapy products, has set up more than 50 retail stands in Beijing to vend its wares, all of which are extracted from pure plants.

One of the store's specialties is essential oils (30 yuan to 459 yuan per bottle), pristine extracts of palmarosa, sage, thyme and other natural ingredients available pure or in mixed compounds. The full range consists of 39 scents, all of which have beneficial effects on the body, from raising mood and smoothing skin to speeding the metabolism and improving organ function. They are perfect for massage, rubbing into the skin after a shower, or general body care and relaxation.

Testament to their purity, Pretty Rally's colorful soaps are transparent, many cut into whimsical shapes like flowers and hearts. The natural soaps, priced at 48 yuan each, are effective in improving skin elasticity and removing wrinkles while providing needed vitamins and moisture. Plus, they are very gentle, engineered to have a Ph equal to that of skin.

Three series of other products,



Aromatherapy essence, 78 yuan

"aromatic botanicals," "aromatic therapy" and "fresh," are aimed at more radical skin protection. The items cover the needs of the whole body, from hair to feet, and fetch 45 yuan to 96 yuan. Among these lines is the remarkable jelly scrub, which contains concentrated essential oils of lemon, geranium, and rosemary, is great for skin and can balance blood circulation.

More cosmetic in purpose is the line of exotic, natural perfumes, many of which come in beautiful bottles of clear Asian and Middle Eastern influence. Some are strong enough to last nearly a week when sprayed on cotton clothes, so spritz with caution. Prices run from 78 yuan to 120 yuan.

Better for adding soothing fragrance to a room are the Toscana stone censers, used to contain scented candles. The candles natural emissions not only brighten but purify the air and can be just the thing to calm jangled urban nerves. If the scent isn't doing it, just concentrate on the dancing flame for a little after-office zen. Censers fetch 28 yuan to 50 yuan each.

**Where:** B1, Carrefour, Baishiqiao, Xicheng  
**Open:** 9 am - 9 am  
**Tel:** 13001140818

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**H**ow can I find part-time work or a job after graduation? What are ten good reasons for choosing the UK as the site for overseas studies? These were among the questions posed to two British education authorities in the first running of Beijing Today's 'Study Abroad Salon' online chat session, held Monday.

This initial session drew 154 questions and registered 4848 clicks in just one hour.

On the line to answer readers' queries were Andrew Disbury, education promotion manager from the British Embassy China and Jazreel Goh, the assistant manager of the department. Both provided humorous, honest and useful advice in the online chat.

Beijing Today will invite Robert Laing, culture and education officer from the US Embassy in Beijing, to chat in our 'Study Abroad Salon'.

Time: 3 pm, Monday, June 21  
http://bjtoday.ynet.com

You can also send questions to: ayi@ynet.com

—Ayi, the host



Jazreel Goh (left) and Andrew Disbury from the British Council recommend balancing studies with recreation in the UK.

Photo by Li Shuzhuan

#### Opening remarks:

**What are some of the best reasons for choosing the UK as the destination for studying abroad?**

—host

1) Welcoming – The UK is made up of people of multi-cultural backgrounds. People are used to living, working and studying with people from all over the world.

2) Accessibility – Equal opportunities are available to all students. You can always find suitable pathways to the courses of your interest.

3) Affordability – Whilst the exchange rate between the pound and yuan is high, most courses in the UK are relatively short. There is also the flexibility of part-time work for full-time students, and internship opportunities.

4) New World Class – UK education combines traditional values with modern technology. You will find that UK awards are highly recognized and that UK graduates are highly sought after by major international companies worldwide. —Jazreel Goh

#### Financial support:

**I have a dream of studying in England without paying any fees. Is it possible?**

—standard

Dream on! There are more scholarships for studying in the UK than you might think. Some come from the Chinese government, some from the UK government or institutions. Please check our website www.educationuk.org.cn.

—Andrew Disbury

**I hope to get a scholarship for study in the field of aviation. Which university has the best aviation program?**

—Yanglin

Sorry I don't know, but if you

go to our website and look up the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) results for 2001, you should be able to find which are the best five departments in aviation. Otherwise you could buy a copy of the Guide to Education UK 2004 which has the RAE results.

—Andrew Disbury

**Is it easy to apply loans from British banks?**

—standard

Well I'm not a banker, but in my opinion UK banks usually only lend money to someone who: (a) has a UK address; and (b) has a credit rating. As a Chinese person, you probably don't have either of these. Sorry!

—Andrew Disbury

#### Jobs and immigration:

**Is it possible to work part-time as a student in the UK?**

—blue211

Part-time work for full-time students! According to the regulations for student visas, students are currently allowed to work part-time up to 20 hours per week during term-time. You

## Secrets to Studying in UK

the earnings in order to get your visa; you must have enough money for your course and living expenses before you apply for the visa.

—Andrew Disbury

**Are Chinese students subject to discrimination in the UK when competing for jobs?**

—standard

All kinds of racial discrimination are illegal in the UK.

Of course, nationals from certain countries, including China, need relevant work permits, but that is just the same for me working in China – I need the Chinese authorities' permission to be here.

—Andrew Disbury

#### Applying to university:

**I am a senior in college majoring in industrial design. If I pass the English test, can I study for a postgraduate degree in the UK?**

—vivisection

Entry requirements vary from one institution to another. We advise that you select the institution of your choice based on your academic qualifications, entry requirements and your personal needs, etc.

—Jazreel Goh

**Do I have to pay a deposit to enroll in a language program or to cover accommodation? That's fair!**

—chrisyn

If a UK institution requires a deposit and you do not pay it, they will not send you an unconditional offer letter so you won't be able to go. Many institutions do not require deposits, so you still have plenty of choices.

—Andrew Disbury

#### Enrollment:

**Is Exeter University a good school?**

—Bonnnie

Please check the quality assessments on our website, or you can go to www.exeter.ac.uk, to see their own results published.

—Andrew Disbury

**I have received an offer letter from a university. But I have received two emails from them too. One said I had been turned down, and one said I had been accepted? What's up?**

—chrisyn

Contact them! Ask them why they sent you three communications.

—Andrew Disbury

#### Visa:

**The reference code on my conditional offer is different from that on the confirmation letter of my unconditional offer. I want to know if these inconsistencies could cause problems in my visa application.**

—Naiad

You only need your unconditional offer letter to apply for the visa. It makes your conditional offer redundant.

—Andrew Disbury

#### Campus life:

**What are some ways to study more efficiently? Some people have complained that one year Masters programs are too short to really master the knowledge. Is there time for playing while studying?**

—leyou

Good question! As we say in English: "All work and no play made Jack a dull boy"! We believe in a well-rounded life full of working hard and playing hard.

Universities usually provide "learning to learn" courses as part of their induction programs.

Each person is an individual, so it is up to you to learn about your own learning style, and then plan your workload accordingly.

Having done that, you can then decide how much fun you have time for.

—Andrew Disbury

**Is life in UK universities interesting? How do students spend their spare time?**

—long hair girl

Live life to the full! British students love having fun and Students' Unions have hundreds of societies to join. It is important for foreign students to join in all kinds of social activities in order to settle in well and make the most of your time in UK.

—Andrew Disbury

#### Living costs:

**Can you offer an average cost, including living expenses and tuition fees, for studying in the UK?**

—Johnny R.

Many people say that studying in the UK is expensive, but don't forget that our courses are shorter than in other countries. We like to think of it as good value for money!

Each institution will tell you the exact tuition fees and tell you the amount of money you need for your living expenses.

Roughly, tuition will be between 7,000 pounds sterling and 15,000 pounds per year for a university course, and living expenses, depending on where in the UK you live, could be 5,000 to 8,000 pounds per year (that all depends on your spending habits!).

—Andrew Disbury

#### Britain and Britons:

**Why are many British people gentle in daily life but aggressive on the football field?**

—mr. bean

In my opinion, one should not judge a whole nation by the actions of a few people.

It is not true to say that all British people are gentlemen, nor is it true to say all British people are soccer hooligans.

One should judge individuals on their own merits, whether they are British, Chinese or from any other country.

—Andrew Disbury

#### Academic certificate authentication:

**I graduated from Beijing International Management College with a bachelor degree. The school cooperates with UK's University of Hertfordshire, which issued the diploma. Will my diploma be recognized by China's Ministry of Education (MOE)?**

—Fa\_8

All higher education institutions' awards were recognized by the MOE on February 23, 2003 in a mutual recognition agreement signed by the then UK Minister from England and the Chinese Minister of Education.

—Andrew Disbury

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# Dining Out around Father's Day and Duanwu Jie



The menu at the Cuisine Gallery at the Novotel Xinqiao Hotel has been updated to include new delicacies such as: (top to bottom) double espresso tiramisu cream with spicy, sweet crackers (46 yuan); goose liver napoleon with onion marmalade (95 yuan); halfway cooked creamy eggs with black diamond mushroom (50 yuan); and fresh fruit and assorted sorbet with red berry sauce (42 yuan).

Photos provided by Novotel Xinqiao



By James Liu

Poor Dad. No hotel around town seems to be tailoring a special feast for Father's Day (June 20), but there are several other promotions that could fit the bill, many of which celebrate the culinary traditions of Duanwu Jie, or Dragon Boat Festival.

## Dumpling festival at Utopia Restaurant

Forgo zongzi and standard Dad day's fare and stuff your face at a tantalizing dumpling festival. On hand is a wide range of dumplings, or *jiaozi*, filling with all kinds of delicious stuffings.

**Where:** Novotel Xinqiao, 2 Dongjiaomin Xiang, Dongcheng **Open:** through June 30, 11:30 am - 2 pm, 5:30-9 pm **Tel:** 6513 3366 ext. 2402

## Hong Kong cuisine

Leung Man To from the Tai Wing Wah Restaurant is famed for his country-style Hong Kong-style cooking based on fresh ingredients. After receiving an award from the Beijing Connoisseurs Association for Chinese Food, he will take his delicious creations to the Summer Palace restaurant.

**Where:** China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang **Open:** June 22-30, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm **Tel:** 6505 2266 ext. 34

## Zongzi to go at Oriental Restaurant

Stock up on homemade *zongzi*, or rice dumplings, in attractive boxes filled with



Complete sets of four zongzi, cost 122 yuan at the Summer Palace restaurant

Photos provided by China World Hotel

six differently flavors treats priced at 88 yuan per set.

**Where:** Traders Hotel, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie **Open:** 9 am - 10 pm **Tel:** 6505 2277 ext. 34

## Dragon Boat Dumplings in Horizon Restaurant

Home made *zongzi* are available at the Horizon Chinese Restaurant until June 22. Taste these traditional Chinese snacks

with appetizing new flavors, such as abalone, salted four treasures, salted meat and Chinese date.

**Where:** Kerry Centre Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang **Open:** 11:30 am - 2:30 pm, 5-10 pm **Tel:** 6561 8833 ext. 41 **Cost:** 12 yuan to 38 yuan each

## Jin Garden Seafood Extravaganza

Enjoy all kinds of fresh

seafood including Australian lobster, live shrimp, grouper, mandarin fish, crab and more, and it's all at a 10 percent discount until June 30.

**Where:** Novotel Oasis Beijing, Yanjiao Economic and Technological Development Zone **Tel:** 6159 2299 ext. 7789 **Cost:** 100 yuan and up, plus 10 percent service charge

# Fresh Air, Charred Meat

By Li Ruifen

Barbeque is a near constant in the cuisines of the world especially popular during summer heat. In Beijing, its most familiar incarnation is the *yangrouchuan'r* or lamb kebab, but there are plenty of other options. This summer, barbeque is proving especially big, and a few local bars (like the two below) have started offering freshly grilled foods and snacks for beer-side munchies and satisfying al fresco meals.



Southeast Asian grilled beef, 35 yuan

Alfa opened a few months ago in the former space of the failed Emergency Room club in a hutong opposite the North Gate of Workers Stadium. While the two-storey structure has stayed, the vibe has definitely changed. Inside, the bar is decorated with only several tables and chairs, giving it an open feel, and the huge white wall opposite the door is sometimes used for movie screenings.

The bar's *piece de resistance*, however, is its comfortable, sprawling patio, the site of Alfa's tantalizing barbeque.

Boring basics like burgers are ignored for more exotic grilled fare. One house special is the *huangjin kaoyu*, or golden grilled fish (48 yuan), a tilapia or manda-

rin fish barbequed whole and seasoned with tongue-tingling spices.

Diners out for a meatier meal can try the *Dongnanya kaoniurou*, Southeast Asian grilled beef (35 yuan). The dish consists of a prime cut of beef, grilled crisp on the outside, tender inside and served with a fresh sauce of tomato, onion and spices.

There are also several skewered options, including the *xiangmao jirouchuan* (18 yuan for four), or chicken kebabs with lemon-grass, which adds good flavor to the white meat.

On a hot summer day, it's hard to imagine a better place to chill than Alfa. Order a drink, enjoy the breeze and fill up on freshly grilled vittles - that's summer living.

**Where:** Xingfuyicun, hutong opposite Workers' Stadium North Gate **Open:** 11 am - 2 am **Tel:** 6413-0086 **Average Cost:** 30 yuan per person



Beef kebab with pepper, 55 yuan

Photos by Wang Yumeng

Already getting a name for itself, one of the newest entrants to the city's bar scene is **Red Yard**. This joint, which opened on May 15, occupies a classic *siheyuan*, or traditional courtyard home, refurbished into a multi-functional unit

- it is a bar, cafe and guesthouse.

Two rooms ringing the courtyard have been furnished as economical housing for travelers, something this city sorely lacks. The aim seems to be at the backpacker market, which is a good thing - it is unlikely that other visitors to Beijing would be willing to put up with the late night noise of a bar right outside their door.

For guests passing through and old Beijing hands, the cafe is a perfectly pleasant place to hang out. Old pictures hang on the wall, and self-serve, bottomless cups of decent coffee cost only 20 yuan. A TV in the corner is stocked with all kinds of DVDs available for free viewing, while a nearby computer offers Internet access for minimal charge.

Things heat up in the bar's attractive courtyard thanks to its grill, which will get fired up during the day all summer.

The chefs recommended the *chuang'r*, particularly the *xiangcao yangrouchuan*, lamb kebabs with herbs, and *kao paigu*, or grilled pork spare ribs. For a more European style barbeque, try one of the savory sausages in beef, veal and Munich-style white varieties.

Not only tasty, things off the grill at Red Yard are really cheap, with grilled vegetables going for as little as 5 yuan a serving and meatier options for around 15 yuan. Hungry guests should check out the weekend grill specials, featuring four of 11 selections for just 45 yuan a head.

**Where:** No. 14 Xiyangwei Hutong, Dongcheng **Open:** 2 pm - 2 am **Tel:** 6403-1584 **Average Cost:** 30 yuan per person

## Recipe: London Broil Steak with Ginger-Soy Marinade

By Joel Kirkhart

A good way to grill tough cuts of beef, which can turn to shoe leather if overcooked, is to prepare them as London Broil. That term does not refer to a certain cut of steak (top round, bottom round and flank steak are all good), but to a cooking process, in which meat is marinated, grilled rare or medium rare and then cut across the grain into thin sheets of steak full of rich, beefy flavor.



- 1 steak, about 1 kilo, cut from top or bottom round or one flank steak, same size
- 1 chunk ginger, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1/2 red onion, cut into 1-cm chunks
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup fresh, washed cilantro
- 1/4 cup dry red wine
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Put ginger, onion, garlic and cilantro into a food processor and process into a smooth paste, or smash together in a mortar and pestle. Add the wine, soy sauce, oil and pepper and combine thoroughly to make marinade.

Place steak in a large dish and spread marinade over. Cover steak, put it in refrigerator and let it marinate at least four hours, ideally six or overnight, turning occasionally.

Light coals and heat grill until very hot. When ready to cook, brush grill grate with oil. Remove steak from marinade and drain.

Place the beef on the grill and cook six to eight minutes per side for medium-rare or two minutes more each side for medium.

Transfer the steak to a cutting board and let rest, undisturbed, for five minutes. With a sharp, thin knife, carve the meat into thin slices, holding the knife at a 45-degree angle to the top of the meat. Serve immediately. Makes four servings.



Photo by Photocom

# The Wrap on Zongzi

By Mei Cui

An essential part of celebrating Duanwu Jie, otherwise known as "Double Five" or Dragon Boat Festival (June 22 this year), is eating *zongzi*, pyramid-shaped clusters of glutinous rice and other fillings wrapped in bamboo leaves and boiled.

Exactly what goes inside a zongzi depends on region, style and cook. Northerners tend to prefer sweet varieties, in which dates or red bean paste are mixed in with the rice. Folk of southern China have a taste for both sweet and savory zongzi, filled with salted duck egg yolks, ham, seasoned or stewed pork, walnuts, peanuts, dried shrimp, and other flavorful ingredients. The most basic type, found around the country, is simply filled with glutinous rice, meant to be dipped in honey or sugar.

## Recipe: Savory Zongzi

3 cups glutinous rice (*nuo mi*)

### Part A

1/4 cup dried shrimp

3/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 tablespoon soy sauce

1 teaspoon black pepper

300 grams pork flank (fresh bacon)

3 shiitake mushrooms (*xiang-gu*)

3 salty duck egg yolks (*xian-yadan*)

### Part B

3 tablespoons soy sauce

1/4 teaspoon sugar

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

1/2 teaspoon rice wine (*huangjiu*)

2 tablespoons minced and sauteed shallots

20 bamboo leaves

10 pieces of string

Rinse rice until water runs clear. Drain and then soak in water for one hour. Drain again. Separate into 10 equal portions.

Wash bamboo leaves and steep in boiling water for five minutes. Remove and drain.

To make filling, chop pork into 20 roughly equal pieces and mushrooms into 10 pieces. Mix meat and mushrooms with ingredients of Part B and marinade 20 minutes. Cut salty duck egg yolks into 10 sections and add to pork and mushroom mixture. Divide filling into 10 equal portions.

Heat a pan and four tablespoons oil. Stir-fry dried shrimp until fragrant, then add rice and ingredients from Part A. Continue stir-frying over medium heat until dry. Then remove and separate into 10 portions. Let cool.

Place two bamboo leaves together, one on top of the other, overlapping by just under two centimeters. Fold in half crosswise, then fold one centimeter lengthwise along one edge. Open the other edge, forming a pocket. Make *very* sure that one top is longer than the other. Holding the pocket in a cupped hand for support, add half a portion of rice, pressing in gently to line the cone. Add one portion of meat filling and cover with remaining half of rice portion.

Fold over the long end of the leaves to completely cover the rice and filling. Carefully bind closed with string, wrapping seven or eight times around and two or three times lengthwise.

Once all 10 zongzi are wrapped, place in a pot and cover with water. Press or weigh down to make sure zongzi do not shift while boiling. Boil for two hours in an ordinary pot or 40 minutes in a pressure cooker. Serve hot.

Makes 10 zongzi.



## Personal Classifieds

## Accommodation

A fully furnished apartment of 130 square meters on the 20th floor by Chaoyang park, with cable TV, east view, two bedrooms and nice sports club facility, is for rent. 6,500 yuan per month, negotiable. Contact: 13901132560 or imepacbler@sohu.com

One bedroom apartment of 60 square meters for rent. Ten minutes from World Trade Center, with home appliances and broadband Internet connection. 3,000 yuan/month. Email: hugojin@163.com

A well-decorated apartment in Wudaokou, close to Tsinghua University, for rent. Furniture and appliances available. Two bedrooms, one sitting room. Foreign tenant who can live at least for one year and English-speaking is preferred. Price negotia-

ble. Contact: 8286 5897 or email: greensleeves@vip.sina.com

## For Sale and Wanted

Long hair for sale! A girl is willing to sell her black hair, not cut for 10 years and which reaches her knees, longer than 1.28 meters, for at least 1,000 yuan. Contact: 8698 9389

A travel series in Chinese, with the copyright of DK Co. UK, offers listings of accommodation, restaurants, shopping, entertainment and places of interest as well as some history and culture of eight major western cities. Price negotiable. Tel: 13801261257

## Situations Vacant and Wanted

The Office of Agricultural Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy invites applications for the position of full-time office assistant. Applicants must have good

English, both spoken and written. Men with driving licenses preferred. Please apply by the end of June 2004 by fax at 010-65323950 or email: moachbj@hotmail.com

A four star international hotel is looking for an Executive Floor Manager. He or she will be self-motivated, with a strong sense of responsibility, decent communication skills in English and a working experience in 4 or 5 star hotels. Interested candidates, please send your resume to hrm@novotelxinqiaobj.com or call 6513 3366 ext 1739

Frank, A graduate from Shanghai Economics and Financial University with a major in International Finance, is looking for a part-time job during the afternoons. He has been working in the Information Department

of the State Council of HK and Macao Affairs since 1987. He is quite familiar with the economic situation in HK, Macao and mainland (esp. in the field of Finance). His mobile: 13522129917, email: m\_y\_zok@yahoo.com.cn

A young American man is looking for an English teaching or tutor job. He can speak a little Chinese. Flexible hours, salary negotiable, Contact: Jensen, 8060 3610 or tujense@yahoo.com

Cherry, a professional English teacher for middle school students, would like to have another part-time job as a Chinese tutor. Any daytime during the weekday is fine. "You'll like my perky character and amiable attitude," he says. Contact him by email: serendipitychery@163.com or 13810224066

## Language Exchange

Pretty and healthy girl, in her 20s, English major, seeks a native English speaker for language exchange and friendship. Her email: annymm\_918@chinaren.com

A Chinese with education and business background is willing to teach foreigners Chinese. Contact: happysheila@vip.sohu.net

A Chinese girl, well educated, working in multi-cultural company is looking for a native English speaker as a language exchange partner. She can speak Mandarin and English fluently. She would like to help a foreigner gain more of the local taste of Beijing. Contact Odine by email: Zh6990@sina.com or 13701316990

## Personals

Li Huijun, a senior student from the Nursing School of Peking Union Medical College, is looking for a friend who is going to study or work in America. Li is interested in climbing mountains, jogging and traveling and is willing to help people in difficulty. Li is looking for a long, profound friendship with someone who can exchange ideas about the value of life and other things. Contact: striveforit1983@yahoo.com

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## Performance



## Life Show

Directed by Tian Qinxin, starring Cai Guoqing, Wang Ji and Ju Xue, this show is created by a group of actors and singers, and is set to thrill Beijing audiences.

**Where:** Poly Theatre, Dongsi Shitiao **When:** 7:30 pm, June 18-22 **Admission:** 100-880 yuan **Tel:** 6506 5345

## Butterflies Are Free

Directed by Li Mingsen, starring Jiao Yuan, Yu Yi and Zhu Yin. Broadway classic *Butterflies are Free*, adapted by Chen Ganquan from Hong Kong, makes its debut in Beijing. With some steamy scenes, it tells the romantic story of a blind young man who leaves his family in pursuit of a girl.

**Where:** Chang'an Theater, 7 Ji-annei Dajie **When:** June 24-29, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 80-800 yuan **Tel:** 6510 1307

## Service



## Savings With Shangri-la's Rate Break

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts will offer savings of up to 40% with its new "Rate Break" promotion. Available at all 42 Traders and Shangri-La hotels including seven resorts throughout Asia Pacific and the Middle East, the promotion is valid from 1 June until 31 August 2004, and includes double air miles with participating airline partners.

**Where:** Shangri-La Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuanlu **When:** until August 31 **Tel:** 8529 9913

## Movies



## One Dad with Twenty-Five Children (Ershiwuge Haizi Yige Die)

Directed by Huang Hong, starring Huang Hong and Li Lin. In celebration of Father's Day, Cher-

## Activities

## AFRICAN FESTIVAL

The recently-formed ACBA (Africa-China Business Association) celebrates its establishment by bringing to Beijing the African Cultural Festival Day. On offer will be a full day exhibition of arts and crafts, African cuisine and culinary art and products from across Africa, followed by an evening dance party offering musical beats from all over the continent.

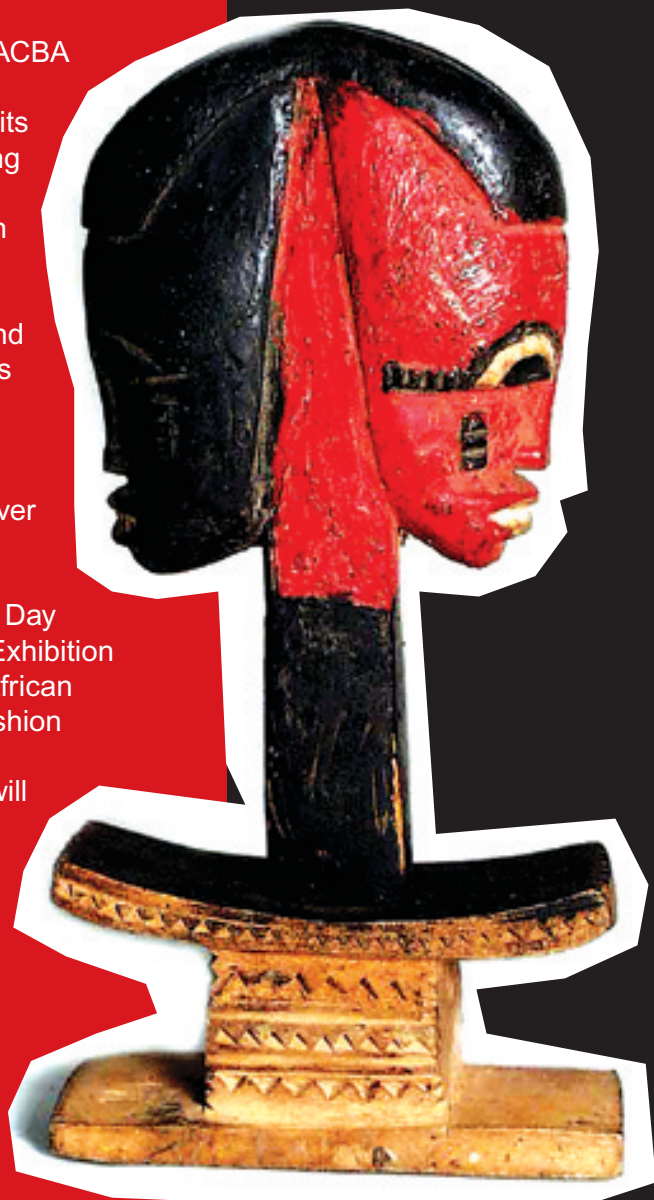
Part One of ACBA's African Cultural Festival Day will be African Cultural Exhibition & Bazaar, offering live African music from Mitabe, a fashion show, hair braiding, and African cooking. There will also be a lucky draw, with the first prize of a Kenya Airways return ticket.

**Where:** Tanzanian Embassy, 8 Liangmahe Nanlu **When:** June 19, 10 am - 5 pm **Admission:** free (bring ID) **Tel:** 135 5202 3397, 136 7113 8554



Part Two of the festival will be an African Festival Night, bringing to you a night of African Dance. An evening of African beats brought to you by The Deptford Crew's DJ Alba & DJ 'C'.

**Where:** Alfa, 6 Xingfu Yicun, Chaoyang **When:** June 19, from 10 pm **Admission:** 20 yuan **Tel:** 6413 0086



ry Lane Movie Theater is showing this family comedy-drama.

Zhao Guang (Huang Hong) is a simple chicken egg farmer. An orphan himself, he was raised by the local villagers. One day, because he donates 10,000 yuan to a welfare agency, he appears on local television. Zhao unfortunately has a big mouth and during his TV interview, boastfully says "I'd love to be your dad if you accept me." Zhao returns to his village as a hero and prepares for his wedding to Gui Qing (Li Lin).

On the day of his engagement party, chaos ensues when 25 orphans show up based on his offer to be their father. Zhao tries to return the orphans to their homes, but they don't want to go and he becomes their reluctant parent.

**Where:** Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 8 pm, June 18 & 19 **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 135 0125 1303

## La Dolce Vita

Directed by Federico Fellini, starring Marcello Mastroianni,

Anita Ekberg and Anouk Aimée. Marcello is a young playboy journalist who spends his days between celebrities and rich people, seeking for ephemeral joy in parties and sex. When a famous film star comes to Rome, he does everything he can to meet her, and when he does, he is totally charmed by her. But can he escape from his superficial existence? Italian with English subtitles

**Where:** Italian Embassy, 2 Dongerjie, Sanlitun **When:** 7 pm, June 18 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2187



We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2521  
By Liu Pinrou

## Tangshan City Porcelain

The Tangshan city of Hebei is famed both for its ceramics production and the devastating earthquake that hit the city in 1976. Ruins from China's largest earthquake will be visited, along with a tour around ceramic kilns where porcelain is made. Tangshan is known as the capital of northern Chinese bone chinaware production.

**When:** June 20, 9 am, meet at the Chinese Culture Club to catch the CCC bus, No.29, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang **Cost:** 200 yuan (170 yuan for members). Registration by email and a deposit is required, or pay in advance **Tel:** 8462 2081

## China Documentary Film Festival 2004

The second China Documentary Film Festival starts this Saturday. The whole event will be divided into six parts: Chinese Independent Documentary; Focus on Society; Chinese Television Documentary; Chinese Classic Documentary; Japanese Documentary; and World Documentary View.

**Where:** Millennium Monument Museum, No.9 Fuxing Road, Haidian **When:** June 19-25, Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 6 pm, Friday - Sunday: 8 am - 9 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan for adults, 15 yuan for students **Tel:** 6857 3281

## Duanwu Festival

The Chinese Culture Club will hold a talk and party to celebrate the 1,000-year-old festival of Duanwu, and you can learn how to make the traditional snack zongzi (sticky rice wrapped in bamboo and reed leaves). The Duanwu Festival is said to commemorate Qu Yuan, one of China's greatest patriotic poets. Paul Wang and Zhang Yuan, CCC calligrapher and traditional culture expert, will introduce the poet and meaning of the holiday.

**Where:** Chinese Culture Club, No.29, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang **When:** June 22, 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm **Admission:** 50 yuan (40 yuan for members) **Tel:** 8462 2081

## Bj Hikers

A trip to a round tower on top of a mountain by the Great Wall. On one side the mountain is not just vertical but actually overhangs the valley. Towers such as these were used at the end of a length of the wall, where the cliff face was so sheer that the wall could not go further. It was probably used as a lookout or even a beacon.

**Where:** Miyun County, north east of Beijing **When:** June 19, Pick up 8 am at the Lido Hotel outside of Starbucks **Cost:** 150 yuan (100 for children under 12) **Tel:** 139 1002 5516

## Exhibitions

## Oil Paintings by Young Chinese Artists and Fine Brushwork Paintings

The oil painting exhibition features works by Zhang Hui, Ma Yue, Yin Kun, and other young artists, presenting the pursuits of some of the artists living in the Tongzhou District of Beijing. The philosophy of life and ideas of these young artists differs strongly from older generations. They tend to pay more attention to human nature with their colorful and rich works. The Fine Brushwork Paintings exhibition will show paintings from Hunan Province, which has long been a center for this art. The artists combine traditional Chinese characteristics with modern elements.

**Where:** Wan Fung Art Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** June 19-24 (Opening reception at 3 pm, June 19) **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6523 3320



## The Location You're @ Now

The exhibition presents a group of new artworks from China and the US around a theme of displaced presence, using scavenged, recovered and reclaimed media. The works incorporate consumer items like technology and embrace a DIY aesthetic. Amidst the popularity of high technology and the increasingly global mediascape, they represent an alternative stream of innovation in the gray area where art and science intersect. They reflect conceptually, metaphorically and fantastically on our collective landscape of inherited technology and its effect on the individual.

**When:** June 19 - July 4, 10 am - 6 pm **Where:** 25,000 Cultural Transmission Center, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Dashanzi Art District **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6438 7107

## Music



## French Music Festival

Muriel Moreno, one of the most popular electro DJs in France, will show up for this musical festival thrown by the French embassy.

**Where:** Cloud 9, Building 7, Sanlitun Bejie (due north of Poachers), Chaoyang **When:** June 20, 8 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6417 8317 / 18

## TV and Radio Highlights

HBO	
18 Friday	
Dancing at the Harvest Moon	4:30 pm
19 Saturday	
The Ring	9 pm
20 Sunday	
Red Dragon	9:30 pm
21 Monday	
Epoch: Evolution	9 pm
22 Tuesday	
Trapped	10:50 pm
23 Wednesday	
Spider-Man	9 pm
24 Thursday	
The Last Castle	8:45 pm
CCTV-9	
Monday - Friday	
Around China	6:30 am
Cultural Express	8:30 am
Nature and Science	
Chinese Civilization	11:30 am
Cultural Express	2:30 pm
Nature and Science	
Chinese Civilization	5:30 pm
Dialogue	7:30 pm
News Updates	
Asia Today	8 pm
Sports Scene	11:15 pm
Saturday	
Travelogue	9:30 am
Center Stage	11:30 am
Sunday	
Sports Weekend	10 am
Documentary	10:30 am
This Week	12:30 am
China Radio International 91.5 FM	
Monday - Friday	
Easy FM Afternoon	2-7 pm
Fun in Beijing	5:05-5:30 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Saturday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Euro Hit 40	12:05-1 pm
Music Sans Frontiers	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Sunday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Jazz Beat	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm



By Peng Juan

Dotted among the green mountains and blue waters in southern and western Fujian Province are blocks of oddly shaped building complexes, dark and densely concentrated. In the 1960s, the CIA reputedly sent spies to investigate what it suspected to be a nuclear base. In fact these mystery buildings turned out to be *tulou*, literally “earth buildings,” where Fujian Hakka families have lived for over a thousand years.

At the Model Exhibition of World Ancient Architectural Elaborate Works in April 1984, Zhencheng, a tulou in Fujian’s Yongding County, attracted world wide attention. In February 2004 UNESCO formally took up the application of Fujian Hakka tulou for World Cultural Heritage.



Photos by imaginechina



# Earth Buildings of Fujian

## Hakka: the guest people

The Hakka are Han Chinese who came to Fujian from the Central Plains of China to escape persecution, between the Qin (221-207 BC) and the Song (960-1279) dynasties. Referring to themselves as Hakka, meaning “guest people,” they have retained much of their ancestors’ lifestyle and culture, while absorbing aspects of the cultures of other ethnic groups.

There are many different types of tulou in the areas inhabited by the Hakka. While the most common are the round and square types, there are also rectangular, D-shaped, semi-circular horseshoe, umbrella and windmill-shaped, and Ba Gua (an eight-sided diagram that is derived from the I-Ching) designs.

The buildings are usually three to five storeys. Inside the entrance is a huge central courtyard, on which all the doors of the rooms and inner windows open.

They combine the functions of ancestral temple and residential dwelling. The rooms on the ground floor are used as kitchens and dining rooms, those on the second floor are for storage, and those on the third floor, bedrooms. **Communal housing**

A typical tulou accommodates around 20 families, or a clan of hundreds of family members. Each family occupies one vertical unit, with their own kitchen, storage area and bedrooms.

The buildings are made of earth, stone, bamboo and wood. After constructing the walls with rammed earth, branches, strips of wood and bamboo chips are laid in the wall to reinforce it. The result is a light, well-ventilated but windproof and earthquake-proof building that is warm in winter and cool in summer.

As most Hakka resided in mountains, these communal houses were built almost as small, fortified castles, to provide protection against bandits and wild animals.

The older earth buildings usually consist of an interior ring enclosed by a huge peripheral ring. The main entrance door is padded with an iron sheet. The wall is around one meter thick, with observation holes above the entrance and lookout and shooting platforms under the roof. There are generally no exterior windows at ground level.



There are tens of thousands of tulou scattered around Fujian Province, many of them still inhabited.

## Where to go

Tulou are mostly to be found around Yongding, Nanjing and Hua’an Counties, with the largest concentration and some of the most spectacular in Yonding.

Yongding is located in a mountainous area boasting more than 23,000 tulou of various shapes, of which the oldest, Yuxin tulou, has a history of over 1,200 years.

**Huanji tulou** was built in 1693, during the Qing Dynasty. In 1918 it withstood an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale. Although the earthquake opened a massive crack in the wall, it quickly closed up again, leaving only a few small traces. During the civil war, it withstood a bombing attack by the Kuomintang, with water from the moat near the gate used to extinguish the ensuing fire.

Measuring 17 meters high, the five-storey, 267-room **Yijing tulou** is the highest in

Yongding. According to the local residents, if one begins to open the windows at sunrise, take a break for lunch and start to close the windows afterwards, it would be sunset when the last window was finally closed.

The town of Hukeng has the most concentrated cluster of tulou, including Zhencheng, Fuyu, Kuiju and Rusheng.

Built in 1912 at a cost of 80,000 silver dollars, the ingenious structure of **Zhencheng tulou** is a combination of traditional and western architecture. The main building is composed of an interior ring, an exterior ring and a central hall. The exterior ring has four storeys, which are divided into eight components in accordance with the Ba Gua, with each side forming a courtyard. Various courtyards are connected by corridors. On both sides of the main building, there are two double-storey buildings in the shape of a crescent. One was used as a school and the other housed casual workers. The overall shape of the building resembles the black gauze cap worn by feudal officials in ancient times, which implies that the owner hoped that his offspring could become officials. Admission is 30 yuan.

Built in 1880 and modeled on the palace architectural style, **Fuyu “Five-Phoenix” tulou** covers an area of 7,000 square meters. High in the front and low at the back, it is dotted with elegant upturned eaves, said to resemble five phoenixes flying in the sky. It is now listed as a key cultural heritage site under state protection.

The tulou cluster located in Gaobei village includes Qiaofu tulou, which houses the Yongding Earth Building Cultural Museum; Wuyun tulou, one of the oldest known earthen houses; and Chengqi tulou, the largest circular tulou.

**Chengqi tulou** follows a classical design, with a large central hall. Like a city with many ring roads, the four-storied Chengqi tulou has four rings of 400 rooms. It has a history of more than 300 years. The population of the building once reached over 600. Admission is 30 yuan.

**Chuxi tulou cluster** includes five large round and ten rectangular tulou, the names of which all share the common word “qing,” or “celebration.”

**Yuchang tulou** is located in the village of Xiaban. The supporting pillars all slant by angles of up to 15 degrees. It seems as though the building will collapse at any moment,

however, it has survived for over 600 hundred years. Admission is 5 yuan.

Located in the village of Meilin, **Hegui tulou** is a key cultural heritage site under state protection. The building cost 15,000 liang (1 liang equals 50 grams) of silver when constructed in 1732. Now more than 100 people live here.

Located in Shuyang, **Tianluokeng tulou cluster** is a spectacular scenic spot, featuring three round, one rectangular and one semi-circular building, with some less prominent oval-shaped buildings. Tianluokeng is the only “state historical cultural village” in Fujian Province. Admission is 20 yuan.

**Hekeng tulou cluster** is located in Hekeng village. This extensive and impressive cluster consists of 27 tulou.

Built in 1590 and located in Hua’an County, **Qiyun tulou** is by far the oldest known example of this architectural form.

Located in Lufeng Village, **Fengzuo tulou** took more than 40 years to construct. The huge complex has a diameter of 77 meters, is 14.5 meters high and has 288 rooms.

## Folk Customs

Festivals are an important component of Hakka culture. As well as the traditional Han Spring Festival, Lantern Festival, Dragon Boat Festival and the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Hakka also celebrate their own festivals, such as the Inspection Tour of Mazu (on the 23rd day of the third lunar month).

## Parks and reserves

Gongya Mountain Ecological Forest Park: Located in Makeng Village of Hua’an County, this is a state forest park boasting a rare gene pool of fauna and flora.

Huboliao Tropical Primitive Rain Forest: Located in Shancheng Town of Nanjing County, this is a provincial level nature reserve, covering an area of over 2,000 hectares. Known as “mini-Xishuangbanna,” it boasts 600 animal species and some 2,000 vegetation species.

Exiangdong Subtropical Rain Forest: Located in Jinshan Town of Nanjing County and covering 280 hectares, Exiangdong is famous as the site where the Song Dynasty scholar Zhuxi gave lectures. There are many stone inscriptions of ancient celebrities here.

## Culinary delights

Deep Fried Ribs and Pineapple – served in a hollowed pineapple, the ribs are soft and rich in flavor.

Hakka Three Treasures – a dish of tofu, bell pepper and balsam pear stuffed with ground pork.

Dongjiang Salt-baked Chicken – should be baked encased in salt, but many restaurants simply cook the dish in brine nowadays.

Duck Stuffed With Sticky Rice – a whole duck is de-boned while maintaining the shape, the cavities are filled with seasoned sticky rice.

Beef Ball Soup – very simple clear broth with lettuce and beef balls.

Stuffed Seafood Beancurd (or Yong Tau Foo in Hakka dialect) – various oddments including eggplants, chili peppers and bitter melon stuffed with fish paste, bean curd, fish and meatballs among other ingredients, served in clear soup.

## Tips

The weather is more or less pleasant all year round in these scenic spots, but spring and autumn are the most picturesque.

**Getting there:** Airfares from Beijing to Xiamen range from 2,060 to 3,420 yuan return, subject to the availability of discounts. Trains connect Xiamen with Zhangzhou, Longyan and Yongding.